CHAPTER 1

ELECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brooklynn Suarez, Adrienne Cole, Adam Jenkins
also SENATOR(S) Virgil Murillo

AN ACT

CONCERNING COMPELLED TESTIMONY IN ELECTION CASES

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 1-15-341 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Election Integrity Accountability Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION. The General Assembly finds and declares that:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(a) Free, fair, and secure elections are fundamental to representative government and public confidence in democratic institutions.

(b) Election-related crimes present unique harms to the public and require complete disclosure of relevant facts to ensure accountability.

(c) The refusal of witnesses or participants to answer questions or provide testimony in election-related proceedings may obstruct the discovery of truth and prevent the lawful resolution of election disputes.

(d) Knowingly false allegations of election fraud undermine public confidence, threaten election officials, and interfere with lawful election administration.

(e) The purpose of this Act is to give full force and effect to Article VII, Sections 12 and 13 of the Constitution by ensuring compelled testimony in election proceedings and establishing accountability for knowingly false public claims concerning elections.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act:

(a) "Election proceeding" means any criminal, civil, or administrative action arising from or relating to the conduct, administration, certification, or outcome of an election.

(b) "Election fraud allegation" means a public statement of fact asserting that fraud, illegality, or misconduct occurred in an election in a manner capable of affecting its administration or outcome.

(c) "Knowingly false statement" means a statement made with actual knowledge of falsity or with willful blindness to facts that would have been discovered through minimal due diligence.

SECTION 4. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY. (a) This Act applies to all proceedings involving:

(I) Election fraud or corruption;

(II) Interference with voters, election officials, or election infrastructure;

(III) Campaign finance violations affecting election outcomes;

(IV) Certification or tabulation disputes; or

(V) Any other offense directly affecting the integrity of an election.

(b) The provisions of this Act shall be construed to implement the Constitution and shall supersede conflicting statutes or procedural rules to the extent necessary.

SECTION 5. COMPELLED TESTIMONY IN ELECTION PROCEEDINGS. (a) In any election proceeding, a court of competent jurisdiction may order any witness or defendant to answer questions and provide full and truthful testimony under oath regarding matters relevant to the proceeding.

(b) A person ordered to provide testimony pursuant to this section may not refuse to testify on the grounds of self-incrimination only where the court has granted use and derivative-use immunity sufficient to protect the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination.

(c) A refusal to testify after lawful grant of immunity may constitute contempt of court but shall not be introduced as evidence of guilt in any criminal proceeding.

(d) A person compelled to testify retains the right to counsel and other procedural protections provided by law, except that refusal to testify shall not be protected as a privilege.

(e) Prior to issuing an order compelling testimony under this section, the court shall make written findings that the testimony sought is materially relevant to an election proceeding and that less restrictive means of obtaining the information are unavailable.

(f) Prior to compelling testimony, the court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing and determine by clear and convincing evidence that:

(I) The testimony sought is essential to resolving a material issue;

(II) The information cannot reasonably be obtained through documentary or alternative investigative means; and

(III) The public interest in disclosure substantially outweighs the burden imposed upon the witness.

SECTION 5.5. EXPEDITED PROCEEDINGS.

(a) Election proceedings arising under this Act shall receive priority scheduling by courts of competent jurisdiction.

(b) Courts shall issue preliminary rulings within fourteen days where practicable.

(c) Appeals under this Act shall be advanced on the appellate docket.

SECTION 6. REFUSAL TO TESTIFY OR ANSWER QUESTIONS. (a) Any person who willfully refuses to answer questions or testify after a lawful court order commits an offense under this Act.

(b) Such refusal may constitute:

(I) Contempt of court;

(II) Obstruction of justice; or

(III) A separate criminal offense as prescribed by law.

(c) In civil election proceedings, a willful refusal to testify after a grant of immunity may be presented to the finder of fact as evidence supporting an adverse inference. This inference shall not apply in criminal prosecutions.

(d) In addition to contempt sanctions, refusal to testify may be prosecuted independently where the refusal materially impedes an election-related investigation or proceeding.

SECTION 7. PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTION FRAUD. (a) Any person who publicly asserts as a statement of fact that election fraud or illegality occurred and who represents possession of verifiable evidence capable of affecting the outcome of an election shall within ninety days, or prior to the certification of the election in question, whichever is later to pursue available judicial or administrative remedies supporting such claim.

(b) Failure to pursue such claims through judicial process after making public allegations may give rise to civil liability upon a showing that the allegations were made knowingly or in bad faith.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit:

(I) Good-faith political speech or criticism of election administration;

(II) Reporting or discussion of allegations made by others;

(III) Lawful election contests, recount requests, or administrative complaints authorized by law.

(d) No liability shall arise under this section unless the statement constitutes a verifiable assertion of fact presented as true and made with actual

malice. Expressions of opinion, speculation, satire, political rhetoric, or predictive statements regarding election outcomes shall remain fully protected speech.

(e) A person shall not incur liability under this section where the individual reasonably relied upon documentary evidence, sworn testimony, official reports, or information provided by election officials, law enforcement agencies, or accredited observers at the time the statement was made, even if such information is later determined to be inaccurate.

(f) The burden of proving lack of good faith shall rest upon the party asserting liability under this Act.

(g) The filing of a formal administrative complaint with the Secretary of State or a report to law enforcement shall satisfy the requirement to pursue judicial or administrative remedies.

SECTION 8. CIVIL LIABILITY FOR KNOWINGLY FALSE ELECTION CLAIMS. (a) Any person who knowingly and intentionally makes a materially false statement of fact alleging election fraud or illegality, with actual malice and resulting demonstrable harm, shall be liable in a civil action.

(I) Demonstrable harm under this section shall include threats, harassment, intimidation, or loss of employment suffered by an election official or worker as a direct result of knowingly false election fraud allegations.

(II) Demonstrable harm shall include quantifiable economic loss, documented expenditures for security services, or medical expenses related to harassment or threats directly caused by the false statement.

(b) Civil actions may be brought by:

(I) The State;

(II) An election official or worker harmed by the false statement; or

(III) Any person or entity suffering demonstrable injury as a result of the false claim.

(c) Available remedies include:

(I) Actual damages;

(II) Statutory damages as provided by law;

(III) Attorney fees and costs; and

(IV) Injunctive relief.

(d) Courts shall immediately stay discovery upon the filing of a motion to dismiss under this section. The burden shall be on the plaintiff to establish a substantial probability of prevailing on the merits before the case may proceed.
(e) Where a court determines that an action brought under this section was filed primarily for purposes of harassment or political retaliation, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing defendant.

SECTION 9. ENFORCEMENT. (a) The Attorney General shall have primary authority to enforce this Act.

(b) Courts of general jurisdiction shall have original jurisdiction over actions brought under this Act.

(c) The Supreme Court may adopt procedural rules necessary to implement this Act.

(d) Enforcement authority exercised under this Act shall be applied in a viewpoint-neutral manner and shall not be used to regulate lawful political expression or advocacy.

SECTION 9.5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT. (a) On or before January 15 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit a public report to the General Assembly detailing:

(I) Actions initiated under this Act;

(II) Number of compelled testimony orders issued;

(III) Civil actions filed and resolved; and

(IV) Safeguards implemented to protect lawful political speech.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

SECTION 11. SUNSET REVIEW. This Act shall be subject to legislative review five years after enactment. The General Assembly shall evaluate effectiveness, constitutional compliance, and impacts on protected political expression prior to continuation.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 25, 2026

CHAPTER 2

COLLEGE EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 26-006

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gia Gomez, Matthew Haynes, Chelsea Mendoza
also SENATOR(S) Monica Kent

AN ACT

CONCERNING COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS FOR IN-STATE STUDENTS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 23-21-118 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "College Opportunity Grant Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Access to affordable higher education strengthens the economic vitality, workforce readiness, and civic participation of the state.

(b) Rising tuition and educational costs have created financial barriers for many in-state students seeking postsecondary education.

(c) Increasing access to higher education opportunities promotes long-term economic growth, reduces reliance on public assistance, and improves overall community outcomes.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a stable and dedicated funding source to provide need-based financial assistance to eligible in-state students attending public institutions of higher education.

(e) The College Opportunity Grant Fund is intended to supplement, not replace, existing federal, institutional, or state financial aid programs.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: (a) "Department" means the Department of Higher Education.

(b) "Eligible student" means an individual who:

(I) Is classified as an in-state resident for tuition purposes under state law;

(II) Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible public institution of higher education within the state;

(III) Demonstrates financial need as determined by this act through a standardized application process; and

(IV) Meets satisfactory academic progress requirements established by this act.

(c) "Eligible institution" means any public community college, state college, or public university, or school of trade located within the state.

(d) "Grant" means financial assistance awarded from the College Opportunity Grant Fund that does not require repayment.

SECTION 4. CREATION OF THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUND.

(a) There is hereby created in the State Treasury the College Opportunity Grant Fund, referred to in this Act as the "Fund."

(b) The Fund shall consist of:

(I) Appropriations made by the General Assembly;

(II) Gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources;

(III) Interest earned on monies in the Fund; and

(IV) Any other monies designated by law.

(c) Monies in the Fund shall be continuously appropriated to the Department for the purposes set forth in this Act and shall not revert to the general fund at the end of any fiscal year.

(d) Monies within the College Opportunity Grant Fund shall be used exclusively for student grant awards and program administration and shall not be transferred or reverted for unrelated governmental purposes, provided that administrative expenses shall not exceed five percent of total annual program expenditures.

(e) The Department may maintain a reserve balance within the Fund not exceeding ten percent of annual appropriations to ensure continuity of grant awards during periods of revenue fluctuation.

(f) the General Assembly shall annually appropriate funds to the program, and total grant obligations shall not exceed available appropriations. If funding is insufficient to fully fund statutory award levels, the department shall proportionally reduce awards across eligible tiers.

(g) the Department shall implement verification procedures to prevent fraud, including randomized audits of applicant eligibility and income data.

SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. (a) The Department of Higher Education shall administer the College Opportunity Grant Program.

(b) The Department shall:

(I) Establish application procedures and deadlines;

(II) Determine eligibility and award amounts based on financial need and available appropriations;

(III) Coordinate with existing financial aid programs to prevent duplication of benefits;

(IV) Prioritize awards for students from low- and moderate-income households; and

(V) Ensure equitable access to students attending community colleges, state colleges, and universities.

(c) Grant awards may be used for tuition, mandatory fees, required course materials, and other education-related expenses as defined by rule.

(d) Institutions of higher education shall not reduce institutional financial aid solely because a student receives a College Opportunity Grant awarded pursuant to this Act.

(e) The Department shall automatically determine eligibility using information submitted through federal or state financial aid applications and shall minimize additional documentation requirements for applicants.

(f) The Department shall ensure equitable geographic distribution of awards and prioritize outreach to rural, first-generation, and workforce-training students.

(g) An eligible institution shall apply grant funds awarded pursuant to this Act as first-dollar financial assistance toward tuition and mandatory fees prior to the application of institutional loans or work-study requirements, unless federal law requires otherwise.

(h) an eligible institution that increases tuition or mandatory fees above the statewide average shall be ineligible to receive program funds in the following academic year, unless waived by the department for good cause.

(i) The Department shall provide preliminary eligibility notifications to high school students no later than the eleventh grade based upon available income data to improve college enrollment planning.

SECTION 6. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD LIMITATIONS. (a) Grants shall be awarded to eligible students enrolled at least half-time; however, the Department may authorize proportional awards for students enrolled in fewer credit hours where the student demonstrates employment obligations, caregiving responsibilities, or participation in approved workforce training programs.

(b) Grant awards shall be determined according to household income levels based upon adjusted gross income reported through the standardized financial aid application approved by the Department.

(c) An eligible student whose household income is fifty thousand dollars or less annually shall receive a grant equal to one hundred percent of in-state tuition

and mandatory fees at the eligible institution attended, together with an annual educational support stipend of two thousand dollars for required course materials or education-related expenses.

(d) an eligible student whose household income exceeds fifty thousand dollars but does not exceed one hundred twenty thousand dollars shall receive a grant equal to fifty percent of in-state tuition and mandatory fees.

(e) students with household income above one hundred twenty thousand dollars shall not be eligible for grants under this section.

(f) An eligible student whose household income exceeds one hundred forty thousand dollars but does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars annually shall receive a flat annual grant of two thousand dollars applicable toward tuition or required institutional fees.

(g) Grant awards established in this section constitute minimum statutory award amounts and shall not be reduced by rule except to prevent financial assistance exceeding the student's total cost of attendance.

(h) Grants may be renewed annually for up to four academic years, or the equivalent for part-time enrollment, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic progress.

(i) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit an eligible student from receiving federal, institutional, or other state financial aid in addition to a grant awarded under this section.

(j) Students enrolled at public community colleges who successfully complete at least twenty-four credit hours within an academic year shall receive an additional completion incentive grant of seven hundred fifty dollars.

(k) Beginning July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, income thresholds and stipend amounts established in this section shall be adjusted by the Department to reflect increases in the consumer price index for higher education costs.

(l) The Department may provide an additional annual workforce incentive grant not exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars to students enrolled in degree or certificate programs identified by the Department of Labor as experiencing critical workforce shortages within the state.

(m) A student transferring from a public community college to another eligible institution shall retain grant eligibility and award tier status for the duration of remaining eligibility under subsection (h).

(n) An eligible student completing an associate or bachelor's degree within the standard program length shall receive a one-time completion award of one thousand dollars.

(o) an eligible student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, to retain eligibility for renewal.

(p) priority shall be given to students enrolled in programs leading to employment in high-demand occupations as identified annually by the department of labor.

SECTION 7. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY. (a) On or before January 15 of each year, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly that includes:

(I) The number of students receiving grants;

(II) Average grant award amounts;

(III) Distribution of awards by institution type;

(IV) Student retention and completion data, where available; and

(V) Recommendations for program improvement.

(b) The report shall be made publicly available on the Department's website.

(c) The Department shall maintain a publicly accessible online dashboard displaying aggregate program participation, completion outcomes, geographic distribution, and workforce placement data while protecting student privacy.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Higher Education may promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer this Act.

SECTION 9. PROGRAM REVIEW AND SUNSET. (a) The General Assembly shall review the effectiveness of the College Opportunity Grant Program five years following enactment.

(b) The Department shall submit a comprehensive evaluation including student debt reduction, completion rates, and workforce outcomes.

(c) Unless reauthorized by the General Assembly, this Act shall repeal July 1 following completion of the review.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026, and shall initially operate as a three-year pilot program subject to annual appropriation.

Approved: March 26, 2026

CHAPTER 3

COURTS AND COURT PROCEDURE

HOUSE BILL 26-007

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Emma Enriquez, Ricardo Schneider, Kristina Spencer, Kenneth Vasquez
also SENATOR(S) Sarah Forbes

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT OF JUVENILE CRIMINAL RECORDS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 19-10-215 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Juvenile Records Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly finds and declares that: The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The juvenile justice system is intended to promote rehabilitation, accountability, and successful reintegration into society.

(b) Juvenile records may create long-term barriers to education, employment, housing, and military service, even after a young person has successfully completed all court-ordered obligations.

(c) Individuals who have complied with court sentences and demonstrated rehabilitation should have a meaningful opportunity to move forward without the lasting stigma of a juvenile record.

(d) Providing a clear and consistent process for sealing or expungement of eligible juvenile records promotes public safety by encouraging rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish uniform standards for the sealing and expungement of juvenile records upon successful completion of court requirements, while preserving access for limited law enforcement and judicial purposes where necessary.

(f) The General Assembly further finds that the interests of victims and public safety must be balanced with the goal of rehabilitation.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Juvenile record” means any law enforcement, court, detention, probation, or diversion record relating to an offense committed while the individual was under eighteen years of age.

(b) “Sealing” means restricting access to a record so that it is not publicly accessible but may be viewed by courts or law enforcement for limited purposes as provided by law.

(c) “Expungement” means the destruction or permanent removal of a record such that it is treated as though it never occurred.

(d) “Completed sentence” means full compliance with all court-ordered requirements, including probation, restitution, treatment programs, fines, and community service.

(e) “Nonviolent offense” means any offense that does not involve the use or threatened use of physical force against another person.

SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR RECORD SEALING. (a) A person shall be eligible to petition the court for sealing of a juvenile record if:

(I) The individual has completed all terms of the court-imposed sentence;

(II) No new criminal or delinquent offenses have occurred for a period of twelve months for misdemeanor offenses and twenty-four months for felony offenses; and

(III) The offense is not excluded under subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Upon a finding that the individual has complied with all requirements and that sealing is consistent with public safety, the court shall order the record sealed.

(c) The following offenses are not eligible for automatic sealing under this Act:

(I) Offenses involving homicide;

(II) Felony sexual offenses;

(III) Offenses requiring registration as a sex offender under state law.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, sealing of an eligible juvenile record shall occur automatically upon verification by the court that the individual has completed all terms of the sentence and has remained free of new criminal or delinquent offenses for the period specified in subsection (a)(II) of this section, and such determination shall be made within sixty days of eligibility where practicable. A petition shall not be required unless eligibility cannot be determined through existing court or law enforcement records.

(e) In determining whether sealing is consistent with public safety, the court shall apply a rebuttable presumption that successful completion of all court-ordered requirements demonstrates rehabilitation.

(f) For offenses involving an identifiable victim, the court shall provide notice of sealing to the victim upon request, provided such notice does not delay the sealing process.

SECTION 5. EXPUNGEMENT OF CERTAIN JUVENILE RECORDS. (a) A person whose juvenile record has been sealed may petition for expungement after

an additional period of three years without a new criminal or delinquent offense. Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with federal law or federal background check requirements.

(b) The court shall grant expungement upon finding that:

(I) The individual has remained law-abiding;

(II) All restitution obligations have been satisfied, or the court finds that nonpayment results primarily from financial hardship despite documented good-faith effort toward compliance; and

(III) Expungement serves the interests of justice and rehabilitation.

(c) Upon expungement, all agencies shall destroy or permanently delete records subject to the order, except statistical data that does not identify the individual.

(d) Upon receipt of a petition for expungement, the court shall issue a ruling within forty-five days unless good cause is shown. The court shall prioritize expungement petitions and provide written justification for any delay beyond forty-five days.

(e) Eligible sealed juvenile records shall be automatically eligible for expungement upon expiration of the waiting period where eligibility can be verified through court records without petition, except for felony offenses, which shall require a petition and judicial review.

SECTION 6. EFFECT OF SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT. (a) A person whose record has been sealed or expunged shall be restored, in the eyes of the law, to the status occupied before the arrest or adjudication and may lawfully state for all purposes that the underlying offense, arrest, or adjudication did not occur, except where disclosure is expressly required by state or federal law. Exceptions to disclosure are as follows;

(I) Employment with a law enforcement agency;

(II) Judicial or prosecutorial positions; or

(III) Situations otherwise required by state or federal law.

(b) Sealed records may be accessed by courts and law enforcement only for sentencing, investigation, or background checks authorized by law.

(c) No state agency, political subdivision, or contractor shall disclose, sell, transfer, or otherwise disseminate sealed or expunged juvenile record

information to any private data broker, background check company, or commercial entity. Any record disclosed in violation of this subsection shall be deemed unlawfully released and subject to immediate removal.

(d) Upon sealing or expungement of a juvenile record, any corresponding public school disciplinary record arising solely from the underlying offense shall also be sealed unless retention is required by federal law.

(e) Any private entity knowingly retaining or disseminating sealed or expunged juvenile record information shall be subject to civil penalties not exceeding five thousand dollars per violation.

(f) No public institution of higher education, housing authority, or state licensing agency shall deny opportunity solely on the basis of a sealed juvenile record.

SECTION 7. AUTOMATIC SEALING FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES. (a) The Department of Law, in coordination with the Judicial Branch, shall develop procedures for automatic sealing of all eligible juvenile records, including misdemeanor and nonviolent felony offenses, within ninety days after completion of the sentence when eligibility requirements are met.

(b) Individuals shall not be required to pay a filing fee for automatic sealing under this subsection.

(c) No filing fee shall be required; however, the court may assess a nominal administrative fee not to exceed fifteen dollars, which may be waived for indigent applicants.

(d) Upon sealing or expungement of a juvenile record, the court shall provide written notice to all agencies known to possess the record and shall require confirmation of compliance within fifteen days, unless the agency demonstrates technical impossibility.

(e) Within thirty days of determining that an individual has satisfied eligibility requirements for sealing or expungement, the court shall provide written or electronic notice to the individual informing them of eligibility and explaining available rights under this Act.

(f) The Judicial Branch shall establish a secure electronic notification system to automatically transmit sealing or expungement orders to all law

enforcement agencies, detention facilities, prosecutors, and authorized record holders.

(g) The Judicial Branch may implement automatic sealing in phases based on available technology and funding, prioritizing misdemeanor offenses.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Judicial Branch and the Department of Law may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act. Rules shall include standards for data security and interagency information sharing.

SECTION 9. PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORTING. (a) Beginning two years after enactment, the Judicial Branch shall submit an annual public report including:

(I) Number of records sealed;

(II) Number expunged;

(III) Average processing time;

(IV) Demographic and geographic trends;

(V) Implementation challenges; and

(VI) Recidivism rates of individuals whose records have been sealed or expunged, to the extent data is available.

(b) Personally identifying information shall not be disclosed.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions which may be given effect without the invalid provision.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 26, 2026

CHAPTER 4

EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 26-009

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Isaac Mitchell, Celia Simmons, Angela Delacruz
also SENATOR(S) Ryan Wells

AN ACT

CONCERNING FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS BEGINNING THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 22-10-242 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be known and cited as the "High School Financial Literacy Education Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Financial literacy is an essential life skill necessary for responsible participation in modern economic life.

(b) Many students graduate from high school without basic knowledge of budgeting, credit, taxes, savings, loans, or long-term financial planning.

(c) Early education in personal finance improves financial stability, reduces long-term debt burdens, and promotes informed economic decision-making.

(d) Schools play a critical role in preparing students for adulthood, employment, and independent living.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that all students graduating from public high schools receive instruction in fundamental financial skills prior to graduation.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Education.

(b) "Financial literacy course" means a course or instructional unit designed to teach fundamental personal finance skills, including budgeting, saving, credit management, taxes, consumer protection, and financial planning.

(c) "Public high school" means any public secondary school serving grades nine through twelve within the state.

SECTION 4. REQUIRED FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE. (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, each public high school shall begin implementation, with full compliance required no later than the 2027–2028 academic year.

(b) Completion of a financial literacy course at any time during grades nine through twelve shall be required for graduation.

(c) School districts may satisfy this requirement by:

(I) Offering a standalone semester course; or

(II) Incorporating financial literacy instruction into an existing economics, mathematics, or social studies course, provided minimum instructional standards are met.

(d) A financial literacy course required under this section shall include not less than one-half academic credit or a minimum of sixty instructional hours of financial literacy instruction prior to graduation.

(e) Successful completion of the financial literacy requirement shall include demonstration of competency through coursework, project-based assessment, or examination as determined by the school district consistent with standards adopted by the Department.

SECTION 5. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS. (a) The Department of Education shall develop model curriculum standards that include instruction in:

(I) Budgeting and personal financial planning;

(II) Banking and savings;

(III) Credit scores, loans, and interest;

(IV) Taxes and payroll deductions;

(V) Consumer protection and fraud prevention;

(VI) Insurance and risk management;

(VII) Postsecondary education financing and student loans; including loan repayment timelines, interest capitalization, and long-term repayment cost comparisons, and

(VIII) Long-term savings and retirement fundamentals;

(IX) Completion of a simulated personal budget based upon real-world income and living expenses;

(X) Instruction concerning rental agreements, mortgages, and housing costs;

(XI) Understanding employment benefits, including health insurance and retirement plans;

(XII) Filing of a simulated state and federal income tax return; and

(XIII) Instruction regarding predatory lending, debt collection practices, and financial scams;

(XIV) and Practical banking skills including opening and managing checking and savings accounts, electronic payments, debit cards, and avoiding overdraft fees;

(XV) Responsible use of credit cards, interest accumulation, minimum payments, and strategies for avoiding long-term revolving debt;

(XVI) Consumer rights and protections under state and federal law, including dispute resolution, identity theft protection, and credit report correction procedures; and

(XVII) Basic principles of entrepreneurship, small business finance, and independent contracting income; and

(XVIII) Instruction regarding completion of financial aid applications including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or any successor form, provided that no student shall be required to submit such application as a condition of course completion or graduation.

(b) School districts may adopt the model curriculum or develop equivalent programs that meet or exceed state standards.

(I) The Department shall not require school districts to adopt any specific curriculum provider.

(c) Curriculum standards shall include instruction regarding student loan repayment options, apprenticeship pathways, military education benefits, and alternatives to postsecondary degree programs.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT. (a) The Department of Education shall provide guidance, instructional resources, and professional development opportunities to assist districts in implementation.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall require the hiring of additional staff if existing faculty are qualified to teach the course.

(c) Schools may partner with community organizations or financial professionals, provided instruction remains noncommercial and free from product endorsement.

(d) Instruction provided pursuant to this Act shall remain free from commercial advertising, branding, solicitation, or promotion of specific financial products, institutions, or services. Any partnership authorized under subsection (c)

of this section shall be educational in nature and shall not permit marketing to students.

(e) The Department shall develop voluntary professional development programs and instructional certification guidance to assist educators in delivering financial literacy instruction consistent with statewide standards.

(f) The Department shall ensure that curriculum materials developed under this Act are accessible to rural districts, online schools, and students with disabilities, including availability through digital platforms at no cost to school districts.

(g) School districts are encouraged to make financial literacy materials available to parents and guardians and may offer voluntary workshops or informational sessions regarding financial planning and student loan awareness.

(h) The Department shall establish minimum qualification guidelines for educators providing financial literacy instruction, which may include existing licensure, relevant coursework, or professional development completion.

(i) Subject to appropriation, the Department may establish a grant program to assist school districts with curriculum development, instructional materials, and teacher training necessary to implement this Act, with priority given to rural and under-resourced districts.

SECTION 7. REPORTING. (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Department of Education shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing:

(I) Implementation status across school districts;

(II) Student participation and completion rates;

(III) Demonstrated student competency outcomes where available; and

(IV) Recommendations for improving financial literacy education statewide.

(V) Evaluation of student financial literacy improvements based on standardized assessment tools or surveys where available; and

(VI) Disaggregated data by district size, geographic region, and student demographics to identify disparities in access and outcomes.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Education may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 8.5. IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS. School districts demonstrating good-faith implementation efforts but requiring additional time for curriculum alignment or educator training may request a one-year implementation extension from the Department.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved: March 27, 2026

CHAPTER 5

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

HOUSE BILL 26-011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Chelsea Mendoza, Sara Howell, Ricardo Schneider
also SENATOR(S) Albert Petty

AN ACT

CONCERNING CODIFYING VALID DEFENSES FOR HOMICIDE.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Defense Clarification Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) Findings. The Legislature finds that current state statutes defining the various classifications of murder and homicide lack a unified and clearly articulated framework for valid affirmative defenses, particularly concerning the fundamental rights of self-defense and the established legal principle of insanity. This deficiency can lead to

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

inconsistent application of justice and inadequate protection for individuals who acted without criminal culpability.

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the general assembly to require that defendants who raise the affirmative defenses of self-defense or insanity bear the burden of proving those defenses by a preponderance of the evidence. This ensures that these defenses are reserved for bona fide instances of justification or incapacity while maintaining the prosecution's duty to prove the core elements of the crime.

SECTION 3. ENACTMENT OF PART 01 — DEFENSES TO HOMICIDE. A new article is hereby added to Title 18 of the San Andreas Revised Statutes, to be designated as Section 01 of Part 1. TITLE 18, ARTICLE 11, PART 1, SEC. 1 IS HEREBY CREATED AS FOLLOWS:

§18-11-101 — Affirmative Defenses to Homicide Charges.

(a) Defendant’s Burden. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the defenses of Self-Defense (Justifiable Homicide) and Insanity are affirmative defenses. The defendant shall bear the burden of proving the elements of these defenses by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) Self-Defense (Justifiable Homicide).

(I) A person is justified in using force, including deadly force, when the person reasonably believes such force is necessary to protect themselves or another from the imminent use of unlawful force. Reasonableness shall be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the defendant’s circumstances, including prior knowledge of threats or violence.

(II) A person has a duty to retreat only where safe retreat is reasonably available and known to the defendant at the time, except when the person is within their dwelling or place of lawful residence.

(III) A person asserting self-defense shall make reasonable efforts to notify law enforcement or emergency services as soon as practicable following the incident when it can be done safely. Failure to provide notification shall not bar assertion of self-defense but may be considered by the finder of fact solely for purposes of credibility.

(IV) Nothing in this section shall be construed to compel a defendant to provide statements in violation of constitutional protections against self-incrimination.

(V) A person may use lawful defensive force to protect a third person where the defendant reasonably believes the third person would be justified in using such force.

(c) Defense of Insanity (Lack of Mens Rea).

(I) It shall be an affirmative defense that, as a result of a severe mental disease or defect, the defendant lacked substantial capacity either to appreciate the wrongfulness of their conduct or to conform their conduct to the requirements of law.

(II) Procedure. If the defense of insanity is raised, the court shall follow existing statutory procedures concerning notice, examination by court-appointed experts, and disposition upon a finding of "not guilty by reason of insanity" (NGRI). A finding of NGRI shall result in commitment to a state mental health facility for care and treatment, as prescribed by existing law.

(d) Courts shall provide standardized jury instructions explaining the burden of proof applicable to affirmative defenses and clarifying that the defense retains the ultimate burden of proving the defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

(e) In evaluating conduct following an incident, the trier of fact may consider the effects of shock, fear, injury, or psychological trauma on the defendant's actions or reporting behavior. — close citation, end of amendments —

SECTION 4. SAFETY CLAUSE - EFFECTIVE DATE. The General Assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, therefore this act shall take effect immediately after being signed into law by the Governor.

Approved: April 1, 2026

CHAPTER 6

TAXATION

HOUSE BILL 26-012

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gina Richards, Laurie Roberts, Isabella Rocha, Julia Willis
also SENATOR(S) Aaliyah Zokaie

AN ACT

CONCERNING REVISING STATE INCOME TAX FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 39-25-254 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be known and cited as the "Fair Income Tax Adjustment Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that the state income tax system should reflect principles of fairness, ability to pay, and economic stability.

(b) Lower-income households experience a disproportionate financial burden from taxation relative to income, particularly with respect to essential living expenses.

(c) Providing tax relief to low-income residents supports economic mobility, reduces financial insecurity, and strengthens local economies through increased consumer spending.

(d) Adjustments to tax brackets for higher-income earners may be used to maintain revenue neutrality while reducing tax burdens on lower-income households.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate state income tax liability for individuals earning less than twenty-five thousand dollars annually and to adjust upper-income tax brackets to ensure continued funding of state services.

(f) The General Assembly further finds that tax relief directed toward low-income households should be implemented in a manner that promotes economic stability while ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility and predictable funding for essential public services.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

(b) "Taxable income" means income subject to state income taxation as defined by existing law.

(c) "Resident taxpayer" means an individual subject to state income tax under state law.

(d) "Earned income" means wages, salaries, tips, and other compensation for personal services, including net earnings from self-employment, as defined by federal income tax law.

SECTION 4. MODIFICATION OF INCOME TAX BRACKETS. (a) Beginning with tax year 2027, the state income tax rate schedule shall be modified as follows:

(I) Taxable income up to twenty-five thousand dollars annually shall be subject to a zero percent state income tax rate.

(II) Taxable income between $25,001 and $330,000 annually: Tax rates shall remain as established under existing law unless modified by future legislation.

(III) Taxable income exceeding three hundred thirty thousand dollars annually shall be subject to additional marginal tax rates established by law. The Department shall not independently adjust tax rates except as expressly authorized by statute enacted by the General Assembly.

(c) Nothing in this section shall reduce or eliminate existing deductions, credits, or exemptions unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) Beginning in tax year 2029 and every tax year thereafter, the income threshold established in subsection (a)(I) of this section shall be adjusted annually by the Department based upon the consumer price index to preserve the real value of the exemption.

(e) A refundable working family tax credit is hereby created for resident taxpayers with taxable income not exceeding fifty thousand dollars annually. The credit shall equal five percent of earned income, not to exceed one thousand dollars per taxpayer, and shall be refundable regardless of tax liability.

(f) Implementation of this Act shall not result in an increase in effective income tax liability for resident taxpayers with taxable income below three hundred thirty thousand dollars annually unless expressly authorized by subsequent legislation.

(g) The Department shall publish annually, on its public website, a clear schedule of the tax brackets established under this section and provide examples demonstrating the application of the zero-rate income bracket for taxpayers whose taxable income falls below the threshold established in subsection (a)(I) of this section.

(h) The Department shall ensure that implementation of the refundable working family tax credit established in subsection (e) of this section includes simplified filing procedures for taxpayers with income below fifty thousand dollars annually.

(i) The Department shall provide an annual notice to taxpayers whose income falls within the zero percent tax bracket established in subsection (a)(I) of

this section informing them that no state income tax liability is owed for that tax year unless otherwise required by law.

(j) The Department shall ensure that electronic filing systems clearly display eligibility for the refundable working family tax credit created in subsection (e) of this section and automatically calculate the credit when sufficient income information is provided.

(k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the Department to create additional tax brackets or alter existing statutory tax rates without an act of the General Assembly.

(l) In addition to the refundable working family tax credit established in subsection (e) of this section, a resident taxpayer who claims one or more dependent children under the age of eighteen for federal income tax purposes shall be eligible for an additional refundable child tax credit. The credit shall equal two hundred fifty dollars for each qualifying dependent child, not to exceed one thousand dollars per taxpayer in any tax year. The credit authorized by this subsection shall be refundable regardless of tax liability and shall be administered by the Department in a manner consistent with the working family tax credit established in subsection (e) of this section.

(m) The refundable working family tax credit established in subsection (e) of this section shall be increased by three hundred dollars for each qualifying dependent child claimed by a resident taxpayer under federal income tax law. The additional credit provided by this subsection shall be refundable and shall be subject to the same income eligibility requirements established in subsection (e) of this section.

SECTION 4.5. REVENUE STABILIZATION. (a) If implementation of this Act results in a projected revenue reduction exceeding two percent of general fund revenue in any fiscal year, adjustments to upper-income marginal tax rates shall occur only following approval by the General Assembly through the annual appropriations process.

(b) No adjustment authorized under this section shall reduce the zero-rate income bracket established under Section 4.

(c) Any proposal to adjust upper-income marginal tax rates pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a fiscal analysis prepared by the Department of Revenue estimating the anticipated revenue impact over a five-year period.
(d) Any revenue adjustments proposed pursuant to this section shall prioritize maintaining the tax exemption for taxpayers with taxable income below the threshold established in Section 4(a)(I).

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The Department of Revenue shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the revised tax brackets.

(b) The Department shall update withholding tables and guidance for employers no later than October 1, 2026.

(c) Public informational materials shall be made available to taxpayers explaining the new bracket structure.

(d) Updated withholding tables shall ensure that taxpayers eligible for the zero-rate bracket receive corresponding reductions in payroll withholding beginning January 1, 2027.

(e) The Department shall conduct public outreach efforts, including informational materials and online resources, to ensure taxpayers understand the changes to the income tax structure established under this Act.

(f) Updated withholding guidance issued pursuant to this section shall include examples illustrating payroll withholding adjustments for employees whose annual income falls within the zero percent tax bracket.

SECTION 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENT. (a) On or before January 15, 2029, and annually thereafter for five years, the Department of Revenue shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly evaluating:

(I) Revenue impacts of the revised tax structure;

(II) Distributional effects across income groups;

(III) Poverty reduction and household income stability outcomes;

(IV) Economic growth indicators; and

(V) Recommendations for statutory modification.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall also include an evaluation of the administrative costs associated with implementing the

revised income tax structure and recommendations for improving taxpayer compliance and accessibility.

(c) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include an analysis of the number of taxpayers who benefited from the zero percent tax bracket and the refundable working family tax credit established by this Act.

(d) The Department shall include in the report an evaluation of whether the revised income tax structure has resulted in measurable changes to household income stability for taxpayers earning less than fifty thousand dollars annually.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect after the 90 day period following the final adjournment of the Seventy-Seventh general assembly and shall apply to income earned on or after that date. The Department of Revenue may begin rulemaking and administrative preparation necessary to implement this Act prior to the effective date specified in subsection (a) of this section.

Approved: April 8, 2026

CHAPTER 7

TAXATION

HOUSE BILL 26-013

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Isabella Rocha, Julia Willis, Carl Young, Sierra Peterson
also SENATOR(S) Aaliyah Zokaie

AN ACT

CONCERNING REVISING STATE INCOME TAX FOR DEPENDENTS AND OTHER INCOME.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 39-26-141 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be known and cited as the "Tax Fairness Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that families with dependent children face increasing costs related to housing, childcare, education, and healthcare.

(b) Providing targeted tax relief to working families supports economic stability and improves child well-being.

(c) Employees in service industries and individuals participating in app-based or independent contractor work frequently experience irregular income and limited access to employment benefits.

(d) Exempting tip income and certain gig-based earnings from state income taxation may provide immediate financial relief to workers while supporting economic flexibility.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a state child tax credit and to exempt qualifying tip income and certain gig income from state income taxation while maintaining fair and efficient administration of the tax system.

(f) The General Assembly further finds that refundable tax credits directed toward families with dependent children may reduce childhood poverty and improve long-term educational and economic outcomes.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

(b) "Qualifying child" means a dependent child meeting eligibility requirements under state income tax law.

(c) "Tip income" means voluntary monetary amounts received directly from customers in recognition of services performed, whether received in cash, electronic form, or through employer reporting systems.

(d) "Gig income" means income earned by an individual as an independent contractor or through a digital platform facilitating short-term services, including but not limited to rideshare, delivery, freelance, or on-demand service platforms.

(e) "Eligible taxpayer" means a resident taxpayer filing a state income tax return.

(f) “Household income” means adjusted gross income as reported for federal income tax purposes, including income earned by both spouses filing jointly where applicable.

SECTION 4. CHILD TAX CREDIT. (a) Beginning with tax year 2027, an eligible taxpayer shall be allowed a refundable state child tax credit for each qualifying child.

(b) Beginning with tax year 2027, the refundable state child tax credit shall equal:

(I) One thousand two hundred dollars for each qualifying child for taxpayers with household income not exceeding seventy-five thousand dollars annually;

(II) Eight hundred dollars for each qualifying child for taxpayers with household income greater than seventy-five thousand dollars but not exceeding one hundred fifty thousand dollars annually; and

(III) Four hundred dollars for each qualifying child for taxpayers with household income greater than one hundred fifty thousand dollars but not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars annually.

(c) The credit shall be refundable, allowing taxpayers with little or no tax liability to receive the full value of the credit.

(d) The child tax credit shall phase out completely for taxpayers with household income exceeding two hundred thousand dollars annually. The Department shall implement a proportional phase-out structure to prevent abrupt loss of eligibility.

(e) The credit established by this section shall supplement and not replace any federal child tax credit.

(f) Beginning in tax year 2029 and annually thereafter, credit amounts and income thresholds established in this section shall be adjusted for inflation based upon the consumer price index.

(g) In the case of a taxpayer with a qualifying child under the age of six, the refundable child tax credit established in subsection (b) of this section shall be increased by an additional three hundred dollars per qualifying child.

(h) The Department shall implement procedures allowing taxpayers eligible for the child tax credit established in this section to receive a portion of the credit through periodic advance payments during the tax year if authorized by rule.

(i) A taxpayer claiming the child tax credit established under this section shall provide the identifying information for each qualifying child consistent with federal dependent reporting requirements.

(j) In the case of a joint return filed by a married couple, the household income thresholds established in subsection (b) of this section shall be doubled for purposes of determining eligibility for the credit amounts established in this section.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION OF TIP AND GIG INCOME FROM STATE INCOME TAX. (a) Beginning with tax year 2027, tip income and qualifying gig income received by an eligible taxpayer shall be exempt from state income taxation up to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars annually per taxpayer.

(b) Employers and digital platform companies shall continue to report earnings for informational purposes as required under federal law.

(c) The exemption provided in this section shall not apply to:

(I) Salaries or hourly wages paid by an employer;

(II) Bonuses or employer-distributed service charges; or

(III) Income reclassified for the purpose of avoiding taxation.

(d) The Department shall promulgate rules necessary to prevent misclassification of wages as tip or gig income.

(e) Any employer or digital platform determined by the Department to have knowingly reclassified wages as exempt tip or gig income for the purpose of avoiding taxation shall be subject to penalties established under state tax law, including repayment of avoided tax liability and applicable fines.

(f) Nothing in this section shall permit conversion of salaried or hourly employment into contract-based compensation solely for the purpose of qualifying income for exemption under this Act.

(g) The Department shall publish guidance annually clarifying which categories of income qualify as gig income for purposes of the exemption established in this section.

(h) The exemption for tip income and gig income established under subsection (a) of this section shall be limited to income earned through personal services performed by the taxpayer and shall not apply to passive investment income or ownership distributions.

SECTION 5.5. REVENUE STABILIZATION. (a) If implementation of income exemptions under this Act results in a projected general fund revenue reduction exceeding three percent in any fiscal year, adjustments to exemption limits may occur only through subsequent legislation enacted by the General Assembly.

(b) Relief provided under Section 4 relating to the child tax credit shall not be reduced pursuant to this subsection.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The Department shall update withholding tables, tax forms, and guidance materials necessary to implement this Act.

(b) The Department may adopt rules necessary to administer the child tax credit and income exemptions established by this Act.

(c) The Department shall conduct public outreach and educational efforts to ensure that taxpayers eligible for the child tax credit or income exemptions established by this Act are informed of their eligibility.

SECTION 7. REPORTING REQUIREMENT. (a) On or before January 15, 2029, and annually thereafter for five years, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly evaluating:

(I) Distribution of child tax credit benefits by income level;

(II) Fiscal impact of tip and gig income exemptions;

(III) Labor market effects, including worker classification trends;

(IV) Poverty and household income outcomes; and

(V) Recommendations for statutory modification.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall also evaluate the administrative costs associated with implementing the child tax credit and income exemptions established under this Act.

(c) The Department shall include in the report an evaluation of whether the exemption for tip and gig income has affected worker classification practices within the state.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect after the 90 day period following the final adjournment of the Seventy-Seventh general assembly and shall apply to income earned on or after that date.

Approved: April 8, 2026

CHAPTER 8

EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 26-014

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Isaac Mitchell, Lorena Morton
also SENATOR(S) Brandon Stimpson

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE USE OF PERSONAL DEVICES IN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 22-14-184 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be known and cited as the "Device-Free Learning Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that excessive use of personal electronic devices in educational settings has been shown to disrupt instruction, reduce student engagement, and negatively impact academic outcomes.

(b) Teachers and school administrators require clear and consistent policies to maintain effective classroom environments free from unnecessary distractions.

(c) Personal electronic devices, including cellular phones and similar communication devices, may interfere with student learning and social development during instructional time.

(d) Schools retain responsibility to provide appropriate educational technology necessary for instruction.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices by students during the school day in compulsory education settings while permitting devices provided or authorized for educational purposes.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Education.

(b) "Compulsory education" means public education provided to students required by law to attend school.

(c) "Personal electronic device" means any privately owned electronic device capable of communication, internet access, recording, or entertainment, including but not limited to cellular phones, smart watches, tablets, and personal gaming devices.

(d) "Educational device" means a device issued, approved, or authorized by a school or school district for instructional purposes.

(e) "Instructional time" means the period during the school day when students are engaged in scheduled classroom instruction or other educational activities directed by school personnel, excluding lunch periods, passing periods, and extracurricular activities.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION ON PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, students enrolled in compulsory

education shall not use personal electronic devices during instructional time while on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored instructional activities, except as otherwise provided in this Act.

(b) Personal electronic devices shall be powered off and stored in accordance with school or district policy during instructional hours.

(c) School districts shall adopt policies governing storage procedures and enforcement consistent with this Act.

(d) Enforcement policies adopted pursuant to this Act shall emphasize progressive discipline and shall not result in suspension, expulsion, or referral to law enforcement solely for violation of personal electronic device restrictions.

(e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a student from possessing a personal electronic device on school grounds, provided the device remains powered off or stored in accordance with school district policy during instructional time.

(f) School districts shall provide written notice to students and parents or guardians regarding the policies adopted pursuant to this section prior to the start of each academic year.

SECTION 5. PERMITTED USES AND EXCEPTIONS. (a) This Act shall not prohibit:

(I) The use of educational devices provided or authorized by the school for instructional purposes;

(II) Use of personal devices as part of an approved individualized education program (IEP), Section 504 plan, or documented medical accommodation;

(III) Use authorized by a teacher or administrator for a specific educational purpose;

(IV) Emergency use when reasonably necessary to ensure student health, safety, or communication during an emergency situation, including school safety incidents or medical emergencies;

(V) Reasonable communication between a student and parent or guardian outside instructional time.

(b) School districts may establish limited exceptions for extracurricular or non-instructional periods consistent with maintaining an effective learning environment.

(c) School districts may permit limited use of personal electronic devices during non-instructional periods, including lunch, passing periods, or before and after the instructional day, provided such use does not disrupt school operations or student safety.

(d) Enforcement policies adopted pursuant to this Act shall emphasize progressive discipline and shall not result in suspension, expulsion, or referral to law enforcement solely for violation of personal electronic device restrictions.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of a classroom teacher to authorize temporary use of a personal electronic device for instructional, research, translation, accessibility, or classroom management purposes.

(f) A student participating in career and technical education programs may use a personal electronic device when such device is reasonably necessary for coursework, certification training, or participation in workforce preparation activities.

(g) School districts may permit limited use of personal electronic devices by students in grades nine through twelve during designated non-instructional periods if authorized by local policy.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The Department of Education shall provide guidance to school districts regarding implementation and best practices for device-free instructional environments.

(b) School districts shall adopt or update local policies prior to the start of the 2026–2027 academic year.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall require schools to purchase additional devices beyond those already necessary for instructional purposes.

(d) School district policies implemented under this Act shall be applied in a manner that does not disproportionately impact students based on disability status, socioeconomic background, or documented educational needs.

(e) Implementation guidance issued by the Department shall include recommended practices for secure storage of personal electronic devices that minimize loss, theft, or damage and avoid financial liability for school districts.

(f) The Department of Education shall develop model policies to assist school districts in implementing device-free instructional environments while preserving flexibility for local administration.

(g) Implementation guidance issued by the Department shall include recommendations for communication protocols allowing students to contact parents or guardians during emergencies without disrupting instructional environments.

(h) School districts shall ensure that policies implemented pursuant to this Act include reasonable accommodations for students who rely on personal electronic devices for translation, accessibility tools, or assistive technology.

SECTION 7. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Education may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 7.5. PROGRAM REVIEW. (a) On or before January 15, 2028, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly evaluating:

(I) Effects on classroom engagement and academic performance;

(II) Student behavioral outcomes;

(III) Implementation challenges faced by school districts; and

(IV) Recommendations for statutory modification if necessary.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include an analysis of whether device restrictions have affected student mental health, digital literacy, or access to educational technology.

(c) The report shall also evaluate whether device-free policies have improved classroom engagement and instructional outcomes across different grade levels.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved: April 8, 2026

CHAPTER 9

EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 26-018

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Adrian Gonzales, Hannah Hurst, Adam Jenkins
also SENATOR(S) Christopher Robertson, Monica Kent

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE STUDY OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 22-8-154 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be known and cited as the "San Andreas Civics Education Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(I) A well-informed citizenry is essential to the effective functioning of a constitutional system of government;

(II) Students should graduate from public schools with a working understanding of the structure, powers, and limitations of state government;

(III) The Constitution of the State of San Andreas establishes unique mechanisms of direct democracy, including initiative, referendum, recall, and citizen veto, which require informed public participation;

(IV) Civic education strengthens democratic participation, public accountability, and respect for constitutional institutions;

(V) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that all students receive instruction regarding the San Andreas Constitution and the operation of state government prior to graduation.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Education.

(b) "Public school" means any public secondary school serving grades nine through twelve within the state.

(c) "Civics instruction" means coursework or instructional units addressing government structure, constitutional principles, and civic participation.

(d) "State constitution instruction" means coursework or instructional units specifically addressing the history, structure, interpretation, and civic application of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas.

SECTION 4. REQUIRED INSTRUCTION. (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, each public high school shall provide instruction on the Constitution of the State of San Andreas.

(b) School districts may satisfy this requirement by:

(I) Offering a standalone course on state government or constitutional civics; or

(II) Incorporating required content into an existing civics, government, or social studies course.

(c) Completion of instruction required under this section shall be a condition for graduation for students entering ninth grade during or after the 2026–2027 academic year.

(d) School districts shall ensure that the instruction required under this section is provided prior to a student’s completion of the twelfth grade.

(e) Students transferring into a public high school within the state during their junior or senior year may satisfy the graduation requirement established under this section through completion of an abbreviated instructional unit approved by the school district.

(f) As part of the civics instruction required under this Act, school districts shall provide students with at least one experiential civic learning opportunity, which may include:

(I) A field trip to the State Capitol of San Andreas;

(II) Attendance at a meeting of a local governing body, including a city council, county commission, or school board; or

(III) Participation in a simulated legislative or civic proceeding approved by the school district.

(g) As part of the civics instruction required under this section, each student shall complete a civic engagement project prior to graduation demonstrating practical understanding of state or local government processes. Such projects may include, but are not limited to:

(I) Communicating with an elected official or public agency regarding a public policy issue;

(II) Attending or observing a meeting of a governmental body, including the General Assembly, a city council, county commission, or school board;

(III) Analyzing or presenting a report on a legislative bill, ballot measure, or court decision affecting the State of San Andreas; or

(IV) Participating in a simulated legislative, judicial, or public policy exercise approved by the school district.

(h) As a condition of graduation, each student shall demonstrate proficiency in basic civic knowledge relating to the Constitution of the State of San Andreas and the structure of state government. The Department of Education shall develop a civics proficiency assessment or approved equivalent standard to measure student understanding of the topics required under this Act.

(i) A student who does not initially demonstrate proficiency under subsection (h) of this section shall be provided additional instructional opportunities and may retake the civics proficiency assessment prior to graduation.

SECTION 5. REQUIRED SUBJECT MATTER. Instruction required under this Act shall include, at minimum:

(a) The structure and powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the State of San Andreas;

(b) The role and responsibilities of state constitutional officers;

(c) The legislative process within the General Assembly;

(d) Direct democracy mechanisms established by the state constitution, including:

(I) Initiative;

(II) Referendum;

(III) Recall; and

(IV) Citizen veto;

(e) The rights and responsibilities of citizens under the state constitution; and

(f) The relationship between state and federal government authority.

(g) Instruction required under this section shall also include discussion of the amendment process for the Constitution of the State of San Andreas and the role of voters in ratifying constitutional amendments.

(h) Instruction shall include examples of historical constitutional amendments, landmark state court decisions interpreting the state constitution, and the development of state institutions.

(i) Instruction required under this Act may include experiential learning opportunities such as mock legislative sessions, simulated elections, or student participation in civic engagement activities related to state government.

(j) Instruction required under this Act shall include study of the Bill of Rights contained in Article II of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas, including the civil liberties and protections guaranteed to residents and the relationship between those protections and corresponding provisions of the United States Constitution.

(k) Instruction regarding the Bill of Rights contained in Article II of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas shall include discussion of the rights of due process, free expression, privacy, equal protection, and other civil liberties recognized under state constitutional law.

(l) Instruction required under this Act shall include education regarding voter participation in the State of San Andreas, including the process for voter registration, eligibility requirements for voting, and the role of elections in representative government.

(m) Public high schools may provide eligible students with information regarding voter registration opportunities and participation in elections, including voluntary voter registration programs for students who will be eighteen years of age on or before the next general election.

SECTION 6. CURRICULUM FLEXIBILITY. (a) The Department of Education shall develop model instructional standards and resources to assist school districts.

(b) School districts may adopt the model curriculum or develop equivalent instructional materials that meet or exceed state standards.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall require the hiring of additional instructional staff if existing teachers are qualified to provide instruction.

(d) The Department of Education shall make available publicly accessible instructional resources, including digital materials, primary source documents, and sample lesson plans relating to the Constitution of the State of San Andreas.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit school districts from expanding instruction regarding state government, civic participation, or constitutional law beyond the minimum standards established herein.

(f) The Department of Education shall provide guidance to school districts regarding implementation of experiential civic learning opportunities required under Section 4(f), including strategies for schools located in rural areas or communities with limited access to governmental institutions.

(g) The Department of Education shall develop guidance and example project frameworks to assist school districts in implementing the civic engagement project requirement established in Section 4(g), while preserving local flexibility in how such projects are administered.

(h) The Department of Education shall provide model civics assessment materials and guidance to assist school districts in implementing the proficiency requirement established under Section 4(h). School districts may administer the state-developed assessment or adopt an equivalent locally developed assessment that meets or exceeds the state standard.

(i) The Department of Education may coordinate with the Secretary of State to develop educational materials and resources relating to voter registration and civic participation for use in the instruction required under this Act.

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING. (a) The Department shall provide implementation guidance to school districts prior to the start of the 2026–2027 academic year.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2028, the Department shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding implementation status and recommendations for improvement.

(c) The report required under subsection (b) of this section shall include recommendations for improving civic literacy among students and evaluating the effectiveness of the instruction required under this Act.

(d) The Department may consult with educators, historians, civic organizations, and institutions of higher education when preparing the report required under this section.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Education may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2026 and become implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.

SECTION 10. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY. (a) The General Assembly recognizes Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas, which provides that the State shall not compel any school district to adopt specific textbooks, reading materials, or curricula, and that the selection of instructional materials remains vested in local school boards.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any school district to adopt a particular textbook, instructional material, or prescribed curriculum.

(c) This Act establishes only minimum instructional standards concerning subject matter required for a thorough and efficient education, consistent with the authority expressly reserved to the Legislature under Article IX, Section 4 of the state constitution.

(d) School districts retain sole authority to determine the instructional methods, materials, and specific curricular content used to satisfy the requirements of this Act, provided that students receive instruction covering the minimum subject areas identified herein.

(e) The purpose of this section is to clarify that the Act establishes statewide educational standards while preserving local control over curriculum implementation and instructional materials.

Approved: April 8, 2026

CHAPTER 10

CRIMES AND CORRECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-019

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Charlie Walker, Hazel Stokes, Dave Price
also SENATOR(S) Sarah Forbes

AN ACT

CONCERNING EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 18-115-251 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Extreme Risk Protection Order Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(I) Preventing acts of violence and self-harm is a compelling public safety interest of the State of San Andreas;

(II) In certain circumstances, individuals may present a temporary and immediate risk of harm to themselves or others while still otherwise lawfully possessing firearms;

(III) Courts are best positioned to evaluate evidence and determine whether temporary restrictions are necessary to prevent imminent harm;

(IV) Any temporary restriction on firearm possession must include strong procedural safeguards, notice requirements, and opportunities for timely judicial review;

(V) It is the intent of the General Assembly to create a narrowly tailored civil process allowing courts to temporarily restrict access to firearms where clear and convincing evidence demonstrates a significant risk of harm.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Extreme Risk Protection Order" or "ERPO" means a civil court order temporarily prohibiting a person from possessing, purchasing, or receiving firearms.

(b) "Respondent" means the individual against whom an ERPO is sought.

(c) "Petitioner" means a person authorized under this Act to request an ERPO.

(d) "Firearm" has the same meaning as provided elsewhere in the San Andreas Revised Statutes.

(e) "Significant risk" means a substantial and articulable likelihood that the respondent will cause personal injury to themselves or others based upon recent acts, threats, or patterns of behavior demonstrating dangerous conduct.

SECTION 4. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO PETITION. (a) A petition for an Extreme Risk Protection Order may be filed by:

(I) A law enforcement officer or agency;

(II) A family or household member of the respondent;

(III) A person who has regularly resided with the respondent within the previous six months; or

(IV) A licensed medical or mental health professional who has treated the respondent.

SECTION 5. ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER. (a) A court may issue a temporary ERPO without notice only upon specific written findings establishing probable cause that immediate and irreparable harm is likely to occur before the respondent can be heard.

(b) A temporary ERPO shall expire within fourteen days unless extended following a hearing under Section 6.

(c) The court shall schedule a hearing within fourteen days of issuance.

(d) Upon service of a temporary ERPO, the respondent shall receive written notice of the right to obtain legal counsel and to present evidence and witnesses at the hearing required under Section 6.

(e) A temporary ERPO shall be personally served upon the respondent as soon as practicable and no later than forty-eight hours following issuance unless service is impracticable for documented safety reasons.

SECTION 6. HEARING AND FINAL EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER. (a) At the hearing, the court shall consider evidence presented by both parties.

(b) A final ERPO may be issued only upon a finding by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent poses a significant risk of causing personal injury to themselves or others.

(c) A final ERPO may remain in effect for a period not to exceed one year and may be renewed only upon a new petition supported by clear and convincing evidence demonstrating continued significant risk.

(d) The respondent may request one hearing during the order period to seek early termination upon a showing that the risk no longer exists.

(e) In determining whether a significant risk exists, the court may consider:

(I) Recent threats or acts of violence;

(II) Violations of protection orders;

(III) Evidence of dangerous firearm use or brandishing;

(IV) Recent acquisition of firearms combined with threatening conduct;

(V) Substance abuse associated with violent behavior; and

(VI) Any other relevant evidence demonstrating risk of harm.

(f) Law enforcement agencies responsible for serving an Extreme Risk Protection Order shall verify that the order has been entered into applicable state and national law enforcement databases for enforcement purposes.

(g) Notice of expiration of order.

(I) Not less than thirty days prior to the expiration of a final Extreme Risk Protection Order issued under this section, the court shall provide written notice to the respondent informing them of the expiration date of the order.

(II) Such notice shall include information regarding the procedures for requesting the return of firearms surrendered pursuant to this Act and any applicable legal eligibility requirements.

(h) Wellness and mental health referrals.

(I) At the time a temporary or final Extreme Risk Protection Order is issued, the court may provide the respondent with information regarding voluntary mental health services, crisis intervention resources, and counseling programs available within the community.

(II) The court may also provide such information to family or household members who petitioned for the order where doing so may assist in supporting the safety and well-being of the respondent.

(III) Participation in any services described in this subsection shall remain voluntary and shall not constitute an admission of wrongdoing or liability in any proceeding.

SECTION 7. SURRENDER AND STORAGE OF FIREARMS. (a) Upon issuance of an ERPO, the respondent shall surrender firearms in their possession to a law enforcement agency or licensed firearm dealer within twenty-four hours.

(b) Firearms surrendered pursuant to this Act shall be returned within five business days following expiration or termination of the order, provided the respondent remains legally eligible to possess firearms.

(c) Upon approval of the court, a respondent may transfer firearms to a qualified third party or licensed firearm dealer for secure storage rather than surrender directly to law enforcement. (d) Violation of Extreme Risk Protection Order.

(I) A respondent who knowingly possesses, purchases, receives, or attempts to possess, purchase, or receive a firearm while subject to an Extreme Risk Protection Order issued under this Act commits a criminal offense.

(II) A violation of this subsection shall constitute a class A misdemeanor for a first offense.

(III) A second or subsequent violation shall constitute a class B felony.

(IV) Any firearm obtained or possessed in violation of this subsection shall be subject to immediate seizure by law enforcement.

(e) Immediate retrieval of firearms.

(I) When serving a temporary or final Extreme Risk Protection Order, a law enforcement officer shall request that the respondent immediately surrender all firearms in the respondent's possession, custody, or control.

(II) If firearms are known or reasonably believed to be present at the location where service occurs, the officer may take temporary custody of such firearms at the time of service to ensure compliance with the order.

(III) If the respondent fails to surrender firearms as required, the court may issue a search warrant upon probable cause to authorize law enforcement to recover firearms subject to surrender under this Act.

(IV) Firearms recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be handled and stored in accordance with Section 7 of this Act.

(f) At the time of service of an Extreme Risk Protection Order, law enforcement shall provide the respondent with written notice explaining the procedures for firearm surrender, storage, and lawful return upon expiration or termination of the order.

SECTION 8. FALSE OR MALICIOUS PETITIONS. (a) A person who knowingly files a false or malicious petition under this Act commits a misdemeanor offense and may be subject to civil liability for damages.

(b) A petition filed primarily for purposes of harassment, retaliation, or advantage in domestic, custody, or civil disputes shall constitute a malicious petition under this section.

SECTION 9. RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY. (a) Court records relating to ERPO proceedings shall be confidential except as necessary for law enforcement purposes or judicial proceedings.

(b) Orders issued under this Act shall be entered into applicable law enforcement databases for enforcement purposes.

(c) Entry of Orders into Law Enforcement Databases.

(I) Upon issuance of a temporary or final Extreme Risk Protection Order, the issuing court shall ensure that the order is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) protection order database and the San Andreas Bureau of Investigation (SABI) records system without delay.

(II) Entry of the order into such databases shall occur as soon as practicable and no later than twenty-four hours following issuance.

(III) Upon expiration or termination of the order, the court shall promptly notify appropriate law enforcement agencies to remove or update the order within the relevant databases.

SECTION 9.5. REPORTING. (a) The Judicial Branch shall publish an annual report including:

(I) Number of petitions filed;

(II) Temporary and final orders issued;

(III) Orders denied or terminated early;

(IV) Instances of malicious petition findings; and

(V) Recommendations for statutory improvement.

(b) Data collection on ERPO implementation.

(I) The annual report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include data relating to firearm recoveries and enforcement actions associated with Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

(II) Such data shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) The number of firearms surrendered or seized pursuant to ERPO orders;

(B) The number of orders in which firearms were voluntarily surrendered compared to those requiring law enforcement retrieval;

(C) The number of violations of ERPO orders reported or prosecuted; and

(D) The number of firearms returned to respondents following expiration or termination of an order.

(III) All data reported under this subsection shall be aggregated and anonymized to protect the privacy of individuals involved in ERPO proceedings.

(c) The Judicial Branch and the Department of Public Safety may collaborate with academic institutions or public policy organizations to analyze the effectiveness of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in preventing violence and self-harm.

SECTION 10. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Public Safety and the Judicial Branch may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE - SAFETY CLAUSE. The General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. Accordingly, this Act shall take effect immediately upon signature by the Governor or upon otherwise becoming law.

Approved: April 9, 2026

CHAPTER 11

IMMIGRATION

SENATE BILL 26-001

BY SENATOR(S) Virgil Murillo, Albert Petty
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Howard Ballard, Jamie Barnes, Julia Willis, Emma Enriquez

AN ACT

CONCERNING STATE COURT REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OCCURRING DURING CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Immigration Enforcement Accountability Act".

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(I) Since the founding of the United States, courts have recognized that federal officials may be held liable for violations of federal law and constitutional rights, including in Little v. Barreme and Murray v. The Charming Betsey;

(II) The United States Supreme Court has long held that federal officers and employees are not categorically immune from the operation of state law, consistent with the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, solely by virtue of their federal employment, including liability under state civil and criminal law where applicable;

(III) The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that, in suits for damages arising from abuses of power, federal officials are ordinarily governed by local law, and that state courts provide an appropriate forum for such claims;

(IV) When the Supreme Court recognized a federal judicial remedy for certain constitutional violations in Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents, that remedy was understood to supplement, not displace, traditional state-law causes of action, including common law tort remedies;

(V) Congress has expressly preserved the availability of civil actions for violations of the United States Constitution against federal employees, notwithstanding statutory limitations on other tort remedies;

(VI) In Egbert v. Boule, the Supreme Court emphasized that legislatures, including state legislatures, rather than courts, are better suited to determine whether and how damages remedies should be provided for constitutional violations;

(VII) In Martin v. United States, the Supreme Court declined to extend supremacy-clause immunity beyond its traditional criminal-law context;

(VIII) Violations of the constitutional rights of persons within the United States are neither "necessary" nor "proper" to the execution of federal powers as interpreted under the Necessary and Proper Clause of the United States Constitution; and

(IX) The State of San Andreas, as a sovereign state, possesses the authority and responsibility to provide remedies in its courts for violations of federal constitutional rights occurring within its jurisdiction, consistent with the United States Constitution.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TO THE REVISED STATUTES. In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, add Section 13-20-1401 as follows:

13-20-1401. Civil action for violation of constitutional rights during civil immigration enforcement — relief — attorney fees — immunity — statute of limitations — definitions.

(a) A person injured within the State, regardless of the citizenship or immigration status of the injured person, including actions occurring in detention facilities or during transport, during civil immigration enforcement by another person who, acting under color of federal or state authority, whether acting individually or as part of a joint task force, knowingly or recklessly violates rights secured by the Constitution of the United States may bring a civil action under the laws of this State for damages, declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or other appropriate relief, including compensatory damages, punitive damages where appropriate, and equitable remedies, including nominal damages where no actual damages are proven, Nothing in this section shall be construed to regulate federal immigration policy or operations, but rather to provide remedies for unlawful conduct occurring within the State. Liability shall attach only where the defendant acted knowingly or with reckless disregard for clearly established constitutional rights, as determined by controlling federal or state precedent.

(a.5) Venue for actions brought under this section shall lie in the county where the alleged violation occurred or where the plaintiff resides.

(a.6) A plaintiff bringing an action under this section shall not be required to exhaust administrative remedies prior to filing suit.

(b) Attorney fees and costs: In an action brought pursuant to this section, a court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs, including fees incurred on appeal, to a prevailing plaintiff as determined under a totality of the circumstances, except where special circumstances would render such an award unjust. In actions seeking injunctive or declaratory relief, a plaintiff shall be deemed to have prevailed if the action was a substantial factor or significant catalyst, even if no final judgment on the merits is entered, in obtaining the relief sought. A court may reduce attorney fee awards where damages are nominal or where equitable relief substantially exceeds demonstrated injury.

(c) When judgment is entered in favor of a defendant, the court may award reasonable attorney fees and costs only for claims the court finds to be frivolous or brought in bad faith, and such awards shall be narrowly tailored to deter abusive litigation, and the court shall make written findings supporting such determination.

(d) To the maximum extent permitted under the United States Constitution, and consistent with binding precedent of the United States Supreme Court, immunity defenses shall not bar an action brought pursuant to this section where the challenged conduct exceeds lawful authority or violates clearly established constitutional protections, including protections against unreasonable searches and seizures and due process violations. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to waive immunities required by federal law or binding federal precedent.

(e) Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(I) "Civil immigration enforcement" means an action taken to investigate, question, detain, transfer, or arrest a person for the purpose of enforcing federal civil immigration law.

(II) 'Civil immigration enforcement' includes participation in joint federal-state operations where the primary purpose is enforcement of federal civil immigration law.

(III) Statute of limitations: An action brought pursuant to this section must be commenced within two years after the cause of action accrues.

(IV) 'Reckless disregard' means conscious disregard of a substantial risk that conduct will violate constitutional rights.

(e.5) A cause of action accrues when the plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known of the violation and the injury.

(f) This section shall not be construed to limit the ability of a defendant to seek removal or federal judicial review where authorized under federal law, including removal under applicable federal statutes, provided that such removal does not delay or impair timely adjudication of claims.

(g) It shall be an affirmative defense, which shall be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant reasonably relied in good faith upon:

(I) A facially valid judicial warrant;

(II) Binding federal statute or regulation; or

(III) Direct supervisory instruction not known to be unlawful, and where reliance was objectively reasonable under the circumstances;

(IV) Written guidance or policy formally adopted by a federal agency, provided such reliance was objectively reasonable; or

(V) A facially valid administrative warrant issued under federal immigration law, provided such warrant is supported by probable cause or its equivalent standard under existing state law.

(h) Actions brought pursuant to this section shall proceed against defendants in their individual capacity, except where a court determines that official-capacity claims are necessary to afford complete relief, unless otherwise authorized by law. Personal liability shall not be avoided solely by virtue of federal employment status.

(i) Nothing in this section requires indemnification by the State or any political subdivision, except where indemnification is otherwise required by law or contract, for conduct determined by a court to be outside lawful authority or undertaken in bad faith.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create liability for lawful cooperation with federal authorities that does not involve direct participation in civil immigration enforcement.

(k) Courts shall construe this section liberally to effectuate its remedial purposes while remaining consistent with federal constitutional requirements.

SECTION 4. IN THE SAN ANDREAS REVISED STATUTES, SECTION 13-80-102, ADD A NEW SUBSECTION TO READ:

13-80-102. General limitation of actions — two years.

An action alleging a violation of constitutional rights during civil immigration enforcement brought pursuant to Section 13-20-1401 must be commenced within two years subject to equitable tolling where justice so requires after the cause of action accrues.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or its application, including partial invalidation of specific remedies or defenses is held invalid, such

invalidity shall not affect remaining provisions that may be given effect without the invalid portion.

SECTION 6. SAFETY CLAUSE - EFFECTIVE DATE. The General Assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and the protection of constitutional rights within the State. Therefore, this act shall take effect immediately upon being signed into law by the Governor, however, this act shall apply only to causes of action arising on or after such date.

Approved: April 9, 2026

CHAPTER 12

CIVIL LAW

HOUSE BILL 26-016

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brooklynn Suarez, Ashley Arnold, Adrienne Cole
also SENATOR(S) Benjamin Harrison, Virgil Murillo

AN ACT

CONCERNING CIVIL LIABILITY FOR A.I. GENERATED CONTENT.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 13-129-205 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Artificial Intelligence Civil Responsibility Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that artificial intelligence technologies are increasingly capable of

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

generating realistic images, audio, video, and written content that may falsely depict individuals or events.

(b) The misuse of artificial intelligence to create or distribute fabricated content may cause reputational harm, emotional distress, invasion of privacy, and other civil injuries.

(c) Existing civil causes of action may not clearly address responsibility where harm results from the intentional or reckless use of artificial intelligence tools.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify that individuals remain legally responsible for the content they create, generate, or distribute using artificial intelligence systems, and that such use does not diminish civil liability for unlawful conduct.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall restrict lawful speech, journalism, commentary, parody, satire clearly identifiable as such, academic research, security testing, or educational uses of artificial intelligence systems.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Artificial intelligence system" means any computational system capable of generating text, images, audio, video, or other content through automated or machine-learning processes.

(b) "AI-generated content" means any content created in whole or in substantial part through the use of an artificial intelligence system.

(c) "User" means any person who creates, directs, generates, modifies, or distributes AI-generated content.

(d) "Likeness" includes a person's name, image, voice, appearance, or other identifiable characteristics.

(e) "Synthetic media" means audio, video, image, or textual content that has been substantially generated, modified, or altered through the use of an artificial intelligence system in a manner that could reasonably cause a person to believe the content depicts real events or statements.

SECTION 4. CIVIL LIABILITY FOR AI-GENERATED CONTENT. (a) General Rule of Liability. A user who knowingly or recklessly creates, publishes,

or distributes AI-generated content that causes legally cognizable harm shall be civilly liable to the same extent as if the user had personally created or disseminated the content without the use of an artificial intelligence system.

(b) Artificial Intelligence Not a Defense. The use of an artificial intelligence system shall not constitute a defense to civil liability where the underlying conduct would otherwise give rise to a cause of action under state law.

(c) Conduct Giving Rise to Liability. Liability under this section may arise where AI-generated content is knowingly or recklessly created or distributed and:

(I) Depicts an identifiable person in a false or misleading manner causing reputational harm;

(II) Uses the likeness of an identifiable individual without consent in a sexually explicit or otherwise highly offensive manner;

(III) Constitutes defamation, false light invasion of privacy, misappropriation of likeness, or intentional infliction of emotional distress under existing law;

(IV) Is generated or distributed with intent to harass, intimidate, or cause substantial emotional harm; or

(V) Knowingly generates or distributes synthetic media falsely depicting an identifiable individual engaging in speech or conduct that the individual did not perform, where such depiction would reasonably cause reputational, financial, or emotional harm.

(d) Evidentiary Considerations. Proof that content was generated or materially altered through artificial intelligence may be considered by the court in determining intent, recklessness, causation, or damages.

(e) Unknowing or Incidental Use. No liability shall arise under this Act solely from incidental or unknowing use of an artificial intelligence system where the user lacked knowledge that the content was false, misleading, or unlawfully generated.

(f) Disclosure Safe Harbor. A user who clearly and conspicuously discloses that content is artificially generated or materially altered shall not be liable under this Act absent proof of intent to deceive or cause harm.

(g) Determination of Damages. In determining damages under this section, a court may consider:

(I) The scale and duration of distribution;

(II) The degree of automation involved in creation or dissemination;

(III) The intent or recklessness of the user; and

(IV) The foreseeability and severity of harm resulting from dissemination of the AI-generated content.

(h) In determining whether a user acted knowingly or recklessly under this section, a court may consider whether the user took reasonable steps to verify the accuracy or authenticity of AI-generated content prior to publication or distribution.

(i) Where AI-generated content depicts an identifiable individual in a sexually explicit or intimate context without that individual's consent, the court may award enhanced damages upon a finding that the conduct was intentional or malicious.

(j) A court may consider whether AI-generated content includes clear labeling or disclosure identifying the content as artificially generated when evaluating intent, recklessness, or potential deception.

(k) Statutory damages for synthetic media harm. In any civil action brought under this section involving AI-generated content that falsely depicts an identifiable individual through synthetic media, the court may award statutory damages in addition to any other remedies available under law.

(I) Statutory damages may be awarded in an amount not less than five thousand dollars and not more than one hundred thousand dollars per instance of unlawful creation or distribution of AI-generated content.

(II) Where the AI-generated content depicts an identifiable individual in a sexually explicit or intimate context without that individual's consent, statutory damages shall not be less than twenty-five thousand dollars per instance.

(III) In determining the amount of statutory damages, the court may consider the scale of dissemination, the intent of the user, the duration of distribution, and the severity of harm caused to the individual depicted.

SECTION 5. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. (a) A court may order the removal, correction, or cessation of distribution of AI-generated content found to violate this Act.

(b) Courts may grant injunctive relief where continued distribution would result in ongoing harm.

(c) Upon a showing of probable ongoing harm arising from AI-generated content, courts may issue temporary injunctive relief on an expedited basis, including orders directing online platforms or distributors to disable access pending final adjudication.

(d) Courts granting injunctive relief under this section may require reasonable efforts by the responsible party to remove or disable access to the offending content across platforms or services under that party's control.

(e) Courts may prioritize expedited proceedings where the continued circulation of AI-generated content is likely to cause ongoing reputational, emotional, or financial harm.

SECTION 5.5. NOTIFICATION AND REMOVAL. (a) A person alleging harm from AI-generated content may provide written notice to a distributor or hosting platform identifying the unlawful content.

(b) A platform receiving notice in good faith may temporarily restrict access to the content pending judicial determination without incurring liability.

(c) A person submitting notice under this section shall identify the allegedly harmful AI-generated content with sufficient specificity to enable the platform or distributor to locate the content.

(d) Election-related synthetic media. Where AI-generated content falsely depicts an identifiable candidate for public office or materially misrepresents a candidate's speech, conduct, or endorsement in connection with an election, a court may order expedited removal or disabling of access to such content upon a showing that the content is likely to cause reputational or electoral harm.

(I) Courts may issue temporary injunctive relief on an expedited basis where the content is distributed within ninety days preceding an election.

(II) Upon issuance of an order under this subsection, a distributor, hosting service, or online platform receiving notice of the order shall remove or disable access to the identified content as soon as reasonably practicable but not later than forty-eight hours after receiving the order.

(III) Nothing in this subsection shall apply to content that is clearly identified as satire, parody, commentary, or news reporting.

(e) A candidate for public office who is the subject of alleged AI-generated synthetic media may petition a court for emergency relief under this section, and the court shall prioritize such petitions where an election is imminent.

SECTION 6. SAFE HARBOR FOR TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS. (a) Providers of artificial intelligence systems shall not be civilly liable solely for providing access to an AI system, absent proof of knowing participation in unlawful conduct.

(b) Nothing in this section limits liability otherwise established under existing law.

(c) Providers of artificial intelligence systems shall not be considered users under this Act solely by reason of developing, training, or maintaining artificial intelligence technologies that may be used by others to generate content.

SECTION 6.5. GOVERNMENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. (a) Any state or local governmental entity utilizing AI-generated content in public communications shall disclose when such content has been materially generated or altered through artificial intelligence systems.

(b) Public disclosures required under this section shall be clear and conspicuous and reasonably understandable to the public.

SECTION 7. RELATION TO EXISTING LAW. (a) This Act supplements existing civil causes of action and does not create new criminal offenses unless otherwise provided by law.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to limit protections afforded to lawful speech under the state or federal constitution.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 10, 2026

CHAPTER 13

CIVIL LAW

HOUSE BILL 26-020

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Howard Ballard, Charlie Walker, Angelica Wood
also SENATOR(S) Sarah Forbes

AN ACT

CONCERNING ENDING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY DEFENSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 29-25-176 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Police Civil Liability Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(I) The protection of constitutional rights and the rule of law require meaningful accountability when government officials violate the rights of individuals;

(II) Civil remedies serve both a compensatory and deterrent function when unlawful conduct results in harm;

(III) The doctrine of qualified immunity has limited the ability of injured persons to obtain relief in cases involving violations of constitutional or statutory rights;

(IV) Public confidence in law enforcement is strengthened when accountability mechanisms are clear, consistent, and fairly applied;

(V) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that law enforcement officers who violate clearly established constitutional or statutory rights may be held personally liable for their actions, while preserving defenses available under ordinary civil law.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Law enforcement officer" means any peace officer or other individual authorized by law to enforce criminal statutes or conduct arrests on behalf of the state or a political subdivision.

(b) "Qualified immunity" means any doctrine or defense that shields a public official from civil liability solely on the basis that the right violated was not clearly established at the time of the conduct.

(c) "Political subdivision" includes any county, municipality, district, or other governmental entity within the state.

(d) "Acting under color of law" means conduct undertaken by a law enforcement officer while exercising or purporting to exercise official authority granted by the state or a political subdivision.

SECTION 4. ABOLITION OF QUALIFIED IMMUNITY UNDER STATE LAW. (a) Qualified immunity shall not be a defense to liability in any civil action brought under the Constitution or laws of the State of San Andreas alleging:

(I) A violation of the Constitution of the State of San Andreas;

(II) A violation of the Constitution of the United States; or

(III) Conduct actionable under state civil rights provisions. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter defenses available under federal law in actions brought exclusively under federal jurisdiction.

(b) A law enforcement officer who, acting under color of law, deprives a person of rights secured under state law shall be liable for damages resulting from such conduct, subject to indemnification provisions established in Section 5 of this Act.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit assertion of defenses otherwise available under civil law, including lack of causation, lawful justification, reasonable reliance upon a warrant, court order, statutory authority, or binding judicial precedent.

(d) In determining liability under this section, courts shall evaluate whether the officer's conduct was objectively reasonable under the totality of circumstances known to the officer at the time of the conduct.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability upon a law enforcement officer for actions taken in good faith reliance upon binding court precedent or statutory authority that was later determined to be unconstitutional.

(f) In determining whether an officer's conduct was objectively reasonable, courts may consider whether the officer received training consistent with the requirements established under Section 8.5 of this Act.

SECTION 5. LIMITATION ON INDEMNIFICATION. (a) A state or political subdivision shall indemnify a law enforcement officer for damages arising from conduct within the scope of employment unless a court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the officer acted knowingly, maliciously, or with willful disregard for constitutional or statutory rights.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits indemnification where liability arises solely from negligence and no finding of intentional or reckless misconduct is made.

(c) Where indemnification is denied pursuant to subsection (a), personal financial liability of an officer shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars unless intentional misconduct is established.

(d) A political subdivision may provide legal representation for a law enforcement officer named in an action brought under this Act, provided that such representation does not conflict with the interests of the governmental entity.

SECTION 5.5. AGENCY LIABILITY. (a) A political subdivision employing a law enforcement officer shall remain jointly liable for violations occurring within the scope of employment.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to shield governmental entities from liability otherwise provided by law.

(c) A political subdivision found jointly liable under this section may seek contribution from the individual officer where a court determines that the officer acted knowingly, maliciously, or with willful disregard for constitutional rights.

SECTION 6. CAUSE OF ACTION. (a) Any person injured by a law enforcement officer acting under color of law in violation of constitutional or statutory rights may bring a civil action for:

(I) Compensatory damages;

(II) Injunctive relief;

(III) Declaratory relief; and

(IV) Reasonable attorney fees and costs.

(b) In any action brought under this section, courts may award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff in addition to any damages awarded.

SECTION 7. RELATION TO EXISTING LAW. (a) This Act supplements existing civil rights remedies and shall be liberally construed to provide a remedy for violations of individual rights occurring within the State of San Andreas.

(b) The Department of Law shall publish an annual report summarizing civil actions filed under this Act, settlement amounts, and policy recommendations to reduce constitutional violations.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of courts to award punitive damages where intentional violations of constitutional rights are established.

(d) The Department of Law may develop model policies for law enforcement agencies aimed at reducing conduct likely to result in civil liability under this Act.

(e) The Department of Law shall publish aggregated data regarding civil claims brought under this Act, including types of claims, outcomes of cases, and settlement amounts, while protecting the privacy of individuals involved.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Law and the Judicial Branch may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 8.5. IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING. (a) Law enforcement agencies shall provide annual training regarding constitutional policing standards and civil liability obligations under this Act.

(b) Completion of such training may be considered by courts in evaluating reasonableness of conduct.

(c) Training required under this section shall include instruction on constitutional rights, de-escalation techniques, and lawful use-of-force standards.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 11, 2026

CHAPTER 14

COURTS AND COURT PROCEDURE

HOUSE BILL 26-021

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Alexia McCall, Dolores Jennings, Wesley Watson
also SENATOR(S) Albert Petty

AN ACT

CONCERNING ENDING THE USE OF GRAND JURIES AND REQUIRING PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVITS IN ALL PROSECUTIONS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 16-140-255 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "No Grand Juries Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(I) Criminal prosecutions must be based upon clearly articulated probable cause supported by sworn statements and judicial review;

(II) Charging decisions should be transparent and subject to adversarial scrutiny to ensure fairness and accountability;

(III) Grand jury proceedings are conducted in secret and do not provide an opportunity for the accused to challenge evidence prior to indictment;

(IV) Judicial determinations of probable cause based on sworn affidavits provide a consistent and constitutionally sufficient mechanism for initiating criminal charges;

(V) It is the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the use of grand juries within the State of San Andreas and require that criminal prosecutions proceed through judicially reviewed probable cause affidavits.

SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS. (a) Grand juries shall not be convened for routine criminal indictments; however, a grand jury may be convened upon application to the Chief Judge of a judicial district where necessary for:

(I) Complex multi-defendant investigations;

(II) Organized criminal activity;

(III) Public corruption investigations; or

(IV) Matters requiring protection of confidential witnesses.

(b) No person shall be charged with a felony offense by indictment.

(c) Any statutory provision authorizing the use of a grand jury for purposes of indictment is repealed.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit use of investigative grand juries for purposes other than returning indictments, including subpoena authority authorized by law.

(e) Any investigative grand jury convened under this section shall operate under supervision of the chief judge of the judicial district and shall issue a written report summarizing its findings upon completion of the investigation, except where such disclosure would compromise ongoing prosecutions.

(f) Limited use of grand juries for official misconduct.

(I) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a grand jury may be convened for the purpose of investigating and returning indictments relating to alleged criminal conduct by:

(A) Law enforcement officers;

(B) Public officials acting under color of law; or

(C) Matters involving public corruption or abuse of official authority.

(II) Grand juries convened pursuant to this subsection shall operate under supervision of the chief judge of the judicial district and shall be limited to the matters described herein.

(III) Nothing in this subsection shall authorize the use of grand juries for routine criminal prosecutions.

SECTION 4. REQUIRED PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT. (a) A felony prosecution shall be initiated only upon:

(I) The filing of a sworn probable cause affidavit; and

(II) A judicial determination that probable cause exists to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused committed the offense.

(b) The affidavit shall:

(I) Be signed under oath or affirmation;

(II) Set forth specific facts supporting probable cause;

(III) Identify the sources of information relied upon; and

(IV) Be sufficient to permit independent judicial review.

(c) If probable cause cannot be established through a sworn affidavit, criminal charges shall not be filed.

(d) A judge shall review a submitted probable cause affidavit within forty-eight hours of filing unless extraordinary circumstances are shown.

(e) The prosecuting authority may supplement or amend a probable cause affidavit prior to arraignment upon approval of the reviewing court.

(f) Upon motion of the prosecution, a court may permit limited sealing or redaction of affidavit materials necessary to protect confidential informants, ongoing investigations, or witness safety.

(g) A sworn probable cause affidavit filed under this section shall include the name and title of the officer or prosecutor submitting the affidavit and shall

certify that the information contained therein is true to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief.

(h) A judge reviewing a probable cause affidavit may require additional documentation, testimony, or sworn statements where the information provided is insufficient to permit independent judicial review.

(i) Any person who knowingly submits a materially false statement within a probable cause affidavit commits perjury and shall be subject to penalties under existing law.

(j) Courts shall maintain a record of probable cause determinations made under this section, which may be reviewed for purposes of appellate review or judicial oversight.

(k) Courts shall ensure that probable cause determinations are conducted in a manner consistent with constitutional protections for the accused while preserving the integrity of ongoing investigations.

(l) Recording of probable cause hearings.

(I) Any judicial proceeding conducted to determine probable cause pursuant to this section shall be recorded by audio or audiovisual means.

(II) The recording shall be preserved as part of the official court record and may be reviewed for purposes of appeal or judicial oversight.

(III) The court may order limited redactions where necessary to protect confidential informants, ongoing investigations, or witness safety.

(m) Use of confidential informants.

(I) Where a probable cause affidavit relies in whole or in part upon information provided by a confidential informant, the affidavit shall include information sufficient to allow the reviewing judge to evaluate the reliability and credibility of the informant.

(II) Such information may include prior reliability, corroborating evidence, or other indicia supporting the credibility of the source.

(III) The identity of a confidential informant may remain sealed where disclosure would pose a risk to the safety of the informant or compromise an ongoing investigation.

(n) Prosecutor certification requirement.

(I) Prior to filing a felony probable cause affidavit, the prosecuting authority shall review the affidavit and certify that the evidence presented

establishes probable cause to believe that the offense charged has been committed and that the accused committed the offense.

(II) Such certification shall be included within the affidavit or as a separate written statement submitted to the court.

(o) Sanctions for unsupported charges.

(I) Where a court determines that a prosecuting authority has repeatedly filed felony affidavits lacking sufficient probable cause, the court may refer the matter to the appropriate disciplinary authority.

(II) The disciplinary authority may investigate whether professional misconduct occurred and impose sanctions consistent with applicable professional standards.

(p) Presentation of evidence by the defense.

(I) During a judicial proceeding to determine probable cause under this section, the defendant may present limited evidence or testimony relevant to the question of whether probable cause exists.

(II) The court may impose reasonable limitations on such evidence to ensure the proceeding remains focused on the probable cause determination and does not become a full evidentiary trial.

(III) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the defendant's right to a preliminary hearing or other procedural protections provided by law.

(q) Sealing of probable cause affidavits.

(I) Upon motion of the prosecuting authority, a court may order that a probable cause affidavit or portions thereof be filed under seal where disclosure would reasonably be expected to:

(A) Compromise an ongoing investigation involving organized criminal activity;

(B) Endanger the safety of a witness or confidential informant; or

(C) Result in witness intimidation or obstruction of justice.

(II) Any order sealing materials under this subsection shall be narrowly tailored and shall remain in effect only for the period necessary to protect the interests identified in subsection (I).

(III) The court shall review any sealed affidavit periodically and shall unseal the affidavit, in whole or in part, once the circumstances justifying the sealing no longer exist.

SECTION 4.5. EMERGENCY CHARGING. (a) Where immediate detention is necessary to protect public safety, a defendant may be arrested based upon probable cause prior to judicial review, provided a sworn affidavit is submitted for judicial determination within seventy-two hours.

(b) When an arrest occurs pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the accused shall be brought before a judicial officer for a probable cause determination without unnecessary delay and no later than seventy-two hours after arrest.

SECTION 5. PRELIMINARY HEARING RIGHTS. (a) A defendant charged by probable cause affidavit shall retain the right to a preliminary hearing consistent with existing law.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall limit the ability of a court to dismiss charges where probable cause is not established.

(c) Following judicial determination of probable cause, defendants shall receive access to the probable cause affidavit and supporting materials subject to lawful protective orders.

(d) Upon request of the defendant, the court may order disclosure of additional materials relied upon in the probable cause affidavit where such materials are necessary to permit meaningful review of the probable cause determination.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of a court to dismiss charges where the probable cause affidavit fails to establish sufficient factual grounds to support the prosecution.

(f) Early challenge to probable cause affidavits.

(I) Upon motion of the defendant, defense counsel may challenge the sufficiency of a probable cause affidavit prior to the preliminary hearing.

(II) The court may dismiss or require amendment of the affidavit where the factual allegations fail to establish probable cause.

(III) Nothing in this subsection shall limit the defendant’s right to a preliminary hearing or other procedural protections provided by law.

(g) Evidence presented by the defendant under Section 4(p) may include sworn statements, documentary evidence, or other materials relevant to the probable cause determination as permitted by the reviewing court.

(h) Where a probable cause affidavit has been sealed pursuant to Section 4(q), the defendant shall receive access to a redacted version of the affidavit sufficient to permit meaningful review of the probable cause determination, unless the court determines that such disclosure would pose a substantial risk to witness safety or an ongoing investigation.

SECTION 6. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. (a) Any indictment returned prior to the effective date of this Act shall remain valid.

(b) Pending grand jury proceedings may continue where termination would substantially prejudice an ongoing prosecution, as determined by the supervising court.

SECTION 7. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Judicial Branch and the Department of Law may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 7.5. IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW. (a) The Judicial Branch shall report to the General Assembly within two years regarding:

(I) Charging timelines;

(II) Case dismissal rates;

(III) Effects on complex criminal prosecutions; and

(IV) Recommendations for statutory modification.

(b) The implementation review required under this section shall also evaluate the impact of this Act on case processing times, prosecutorial charging practices, and access to judicial review.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect

unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 17, 2026

CHAPTER 15

CRIMES AND CORRECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-022

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Alia Bennett, Gabriella Cardenas
also SENATOR(S) Victor Azalea, Anja Daugherty

AN ACT

CONCERNING CREATING A SELF DEFENSE CLAUSE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 18-149-254 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Spousal Self-Defense Protection Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(I) Victims of domestic abuse may experience ongoing patterns of violence, coercion, and credible threats of serious bodily harm;

(II) Traditional self-defense standards requiring immediate or imminent harm may not adequately account for circumstances involving sustained abuse and credible future danger;

(III) Courts should be permitted to consider evidence of documented abuse when evaluating claims of self-defense;

(IV) The State has a compelling interest in ensuring that victims of domestic violence are not unjustly criminalized when acting to protect themselves from a pattern of serious abuse;

(V) It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify the application of self-defense law in cases involving documented domestic abuse while preserving the prosecution's burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

SECTION 3. ADDITION TO TITLE 11 — SELF-DEFENSE IN CASES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE. A new section is added to Title 18 of the San Andreas Revised Statutes as follows:

§18-187-532. Self-Defense in the Context of Ongoing Domestic Abuse.

(a) In a prosecution for homicide, assault, or other violent offense arising from conduct against a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, intimate partner, family member, or household member, the defendant may assert self-defense where:

(I) The defendant was subjected to a pattern of domestic abuse by the alleged victim; and

(II) The defendant reasonably believed the use of force was necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death, as evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in the defendant's circumstances, including the history of abuse known to the defendant.

(b) The requirement of imminent harm shall not require that violence be occurring at the precise moment force was used where credible evidence

demonstrates a continuing threat of serious bodily injury or death likely to occur within a reasonably foreseeable period.

(c) Evidence admissible under this section may include:

(I) Prior police reports, protection orders, or criminal convictions;

(II) Medical records documenting injuries;

(III) Testimony regarding threats, coercion, or repeated acts of violence;

(IV) Expert testimony concerning patterns of domestic abuse, trauma responses, delayed reporting, survivor behavior, or psychological effects of sustained abuse;

(V) Evidence of prior abusive conduct shall not be excluded solely because such conduct did not result in arrest, prosecution, or conviction.

(d) The defendant shall have the burden of producing evidence supporting the claim under this section. Upon such showing, the prosecution retains the burden to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of force was not justified.

(e) For purposes of this section, a "pattern of domestic abuse" includes physical violence, threats of violence, coercive control, stalking, intimidation, isolation, economic abuse, or repeated conduct that would cause a reasonable person to fear serious bodily injury or death.

(f) Upon motion of the defendant, the court may conduct a pretrial evidentiary hearing to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to permit presentation of a self-defense claim under this section to the jury.

(g) In evaluating justification under this section, the trier of fact may consider whether patterns of abuse reasonably limited the defendant's ability to safely retreat or seek protection through alternative means.

(h) In evaluating a claim under this section, the court may consider whether the defendant previously sought assistance from law enforcement, medical professionals, or social service providers related to the alleged pattern of domestic abuse.

(i) Evidence of prior acts of domestic abuse shall be admissible for the limited purpose of establishing the defendant's reasonable belief that the use of force was necessary.

(j) Courts may permit testimony from qualified experts regarding the psychological effects of prolonged domestic abuse, including trauma responses and the impact of coercive control on a victim's perception of danger.

(k) The court may issue protective orders limiting disclosure of sensitive evidence introduced under this section where necessary to protect the privacy or safety of victims of domestic abuse.

(l) In determining reasonableness under this section, the trier of fact may consider the cumulative impact of repeated abuse over time rather than evaluating each incident in isolation.

(m) Evidence offered under this section may include testimony from family members, neighbors, counselors, or other individuals who observed or were aware of the alleged pattern of abuse.

(n) Courts may consider whether the alleged victim previously violated protection orders, restraining orders, or other court directives related to domestic violence.

(o) Corroborating evidence requirement.

(I) A defendant asserting self-defense under this section shall present corroborating evidence supporting the existence of a pattern of domestic abuse.

(II) Corroborating evidence may include police reports, protection orders, medical records, witness testimony, communications containing threats, photographs of injuries, or other documentation demonstrating prior abuse.

(III) Lack of arrest, prosecution, or conviction related to prior incidents shall not alone preclude the court from considering corroborating evidence of abuse.

(p) Application to family and household members.

(I) For purposes of this section, "family member or household member" includes individuals related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship, or individuals who currently reside or previously resided in the same household as the defendant.

(II) The provisions of this section shall apply equally where the alleged abuse occurred within a family or household relationship.

SECTION 4. LIMITATIONS. (a) This Act does not create a presumption of justification.

(b) This Act does not authorize retaliatory or punitive violence and applies only where the use of force is motivated by prevention of reasonably anticipated serious bodily injury or death.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to eliminate the availability of other affirmative defenses under state law.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the prosecution's ability to challenge the credibility or reliability of evidence presented in support of a self-defense claim.

SECTION 5. STATEWIDE JURY INSTRUCTION STANDARDS. (a) The Judicial Branch shall develop uniform jury instructions governing the application of self-defense claims involving patterns of domestic abuse.

(b) Such instructions shall clarify that reasonableness may be evaluated from the perspective of a person subjected to ongoing abuse and that evidence of sustained abuse may inform a jury's determination of whether the defendant reasonably believed force was necessary.

(c) The instructions shall be made publicly available and shall be used by courts throughout the state in cases arising under this Act.

(d) Courts shall ensure that jury instructions issued under this section emphasize that the existence of past abuse does not automatically justify the use of force and that each case must be evaluated based on the totality of circumstances.

SECTION 5.5. TRAINING. (a) The Judicial Branch shall develop educational materials regarding application of self-defense law in cases involving domestic abuse.

(b) Training shall include trauma-informed evaluation of evidence and survivor behavior.

(c) Training developed under this section shall include instruction on identifying patterns of coercive control and recognizing barriers that may prevent victims of abuse from seeking assistance.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II,

Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 17, 2026

CHAPTER 16

CRIMES AND CORRECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-024

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lucia Weiss, Alia Bennett
also SENATOR(S) Cheyenne Esparza, Eliana Velasco

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE DEREGULATION AND DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 12-16-284 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and cited as the "Adult Prostitution Legalization Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The General Assembly finds that:

(I) Criminal prohibition of consensual adult prostitution has contributed to unsafe working conditions, exploitation, and barriers to public health oversight;

(II) Regulation of consensual adult commercial sexual activity promotes public safety, health monitoring, and transparency;

(III) The State has a compelling interest in protecting minors and preserving school environments from exposure to adult-oriented commercial activity;

(IV) Legalization accompanied by zoning restrictions and licensing requirements better protects communities than unregulated underground activity.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to legalize and regulate prostitution between consenting adults while prohibiting such activity near schools and locations primarily serving minors.

(c) The General Assembly further finds that regulation of adult commercial activity should balance worker safety, community standards, and protection of minors while avoiding unnecessary criminalization of consensual adult conduct.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Act:

(a) “Prostitution” means consensual sexual activity between adults in exchange for compensation.

(b) “Sex worker” means an individual age eighteen (18) years or older who voluntarily engages in prostitution.

(c) “Commercial sexual establishment” means any business location where prostitution services are arranged or conducted.

(d) “School” means any public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school serving persons under eighteen years of age.

(e) “Voluntary participation” means engagement in prostitution free from force, fraud, coercion, intimidation, debt bondage, or abuse of legal or economic vulnerability.

SECTION 4. LEGALIZATION OF CONSENSUAL ADULT PROSTITUTION. (a) Consensual prostitution between adults age eighteen or older

is lawful within the State of San Andreas when conducted in compliance with this Act.

(b) No person may be prosecuted solely for engaging in consensual prostitution consistent with this Act.

(c) This Act does not legalize:

(I) Prostitution involving minors;

(II) Human trafficking;

(III) Coercion, force, or exploitation;

(IV) Prostitution conducted outside licensed or permitted areas as required by law.

(d) A sex worker operating independently shall not be subject to criminal penalty solely for failure to obtain a business license where licensing requirements apply primarily to commercial establishments rather than individual workers.

(e) A sex worker retains the unrestricted right to refuse or discontinue services at any time, and such refusal shall not constitute breach of contract or grounds for civil or criminal liability.

SECTION 5. TIME RESTRICTIONS NEAR SCHOOLS. (a) Prostitution or operation of a commercial sexual establishment within the vicinity of a school shall be permitted only between the hours of seven o’clock post meridiem (7:00 p.m.) and seven o’clock ante meridiem (7:00 a.m.).

(b) Prostitution or operation of a commercial sexual establishment occurring between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in areas adjacent to a school shall constitute a violation of this section.

(c) Local governments may adopt stricter operational time restrictions; however, they shall not prohibit lawful activity authorized under this Act during the hours permitted in subsection (a).

(d) Nothing in this section shall permit prostitution or the operation of a commercial sexual establishment during school-sponsored events on school property outside the hours specified in subsection (a).

(e) For purposes of this section, “vicinity of a school” shall mean any location visible from school grounds.

SECTION 6. LICENSING AND LOCAL REGULATION. (a) Counties and municipalities may establish licensing systems regulating:

(I) Business operation hours;

(II) Health and safety standards;

(III) Zoning requirements;

(IV) Workplace protections.

(b) Licensing regulations shall not criminalize consensual adult activity otherwise lawful under this Act.

(c) Local regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be reasonable and shall not operate to effectively prohibit lawful consensual prostitution throughout the jurisdiction.

(d) Licensing authorities shall require commercial sexual establishments to adopt written anti-trafficking policies, employee age verification procedures, and reporting protocols for suspected coercion or exploitation.

(e) Local governments may establish designated adult commercial zones for licensed commercial sexual establishments, provided such zoning regulations do not effectively prohibit lawful activity authorized under this Act.

SECTION 7. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. (a) Licensed establishments shall comply with state public health regulations.

(b) Participation in health education or safety programs may be required as a condition of establishment licensure; however, mandatory medical testing of individual sex workers shall not be required absent generally applicable public health law.

(c) Licensed establishments shall implement workplace safety measures including panic alert systems, security protocols, and policies permitting workers to refuse or terminate services at any time without penalty.

(d) Licensed establishments shall provide workers with written notice of workplace rights, including the right to refuse services and protections against coercion or retaliation.

(e) Establishments operating under this Act shall maintain policies requiring age verification of all workers and customers to ensure compliance with minimum age requirements.

SECTION 7.5. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS. (a) Licensing systems shall protect the confidentiality of sex workers and shall prohibit public disclosure of personal identifying information except as required by court order.

(b) Government records identifying licensed sex workers shall not be publicly searchable databases.

SECTION 8. PENALTIES. (a) Violation of time restrictions near schools established in Section 5 of this Act constitutes a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) Any prostitution involving a minor or coercion shall remain subject to felony prosecution under existing law.

(c) Repeated violations of the time restrictions established in Section 5 may result in suspension or revocation of any applicable business license issued by a local authority.

SECTION 9. REPEAL OF EXISTING PROSTITUTION OFFENSE. (a) Repeal.

Section S.A.R.S. 2-03-01, Prostitution, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

(b) Former Statutory Language Repealed. The following provision is repealed: ~~A person is guilty of prostitution when they knowingly engage in or offer to engage in a sexual act in exchange for payment or other goods and services. Any person in violation of this section commits a Class C misdemeanor.~~

(c) Conforming Amendments.

(I) Any reference within the San Andreas Revised Statutes to criminal liability under S.A.R.S. 2-03-01 shall be deemed void upon the effective date of this Act.

(II) Consensual prostitution between adults shall thereafter be governed exclusively by the provisions of the Regulated Adult Prostitution Legalization and Public Safety Act.

(d) Savings Clause. Nothing in this section shall:

(I) Affect prosecutions or convictions finalized prior to the effective date of this Act; or

(II) Be construed to repeal or modify statutes relating to human trafficking, coercion, prostitution involving minors, or related criminal offenses.

SECTION 10. AUTOMATIC SEALING AND RELIEF FOR PRIOR PROSTITUTION CONVICTIONS. (a) Automatic Record Sealing. Any arrest, charge, citation, or conviction entered solely under S.A.R.S. 2-03-01 (Prostitution) for conduct that is no longer criminal under this Act shall be automatically sealed.

(b) Eligibility.

(I) Relief under this section applies only where the offense involved consensual conduct between adults;

(II) This section shall not apply to offenses involving:

(A) Minors;

(B) Human trafficking;

(C) Coercion or force; or

(D) Promotion or exploitation offenses remaining unlawful under state law.

(c) Court and Agency Duties. Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this Act:

(I) Courts shall identify eligible cases and enter sealing orders without requiring a petition from the affected individual;

(II) Law enforcement agencies shall seal related arrest records;

(III) The Department of Public Safety, and the San Andreas Bureau of Investigation shall update all criminal history databases accordingly.

(d) Legal Effect of Sealing. Upon sealing:

(I) The offense shall be deemed never to have occurred for all civil purposes; however, such records shall remain accessible to the Department of Human Services for the purpose of conducting background checks for foster care or adoption placements;

(II) The individual may lawfully state that they have not been arrested for or convicted of the sealed offense;

(III) The record shall not be disclosed except by court order for limited law enforcement purposes.

(e) No Filing Fee Required. No person eligible for relief under this section shall be required to pay filing fees, court costs, or administrative charges.

(f) Optional Expungement Petition. An individual whose record is sealed under this section may petition the court for permanent expungement after one (1) year, which shall be granted absent good cause shown.

(g) The Department of Public Safety shall coordinate with local governments to ensure that individuals eligible for record sealing under this section receive notice of their eligibility.

SECTION 10.5. CIVIL PROTECTIONS. (a) Lawful participation in consensual prostitution under this Act shall not constitute lawful grounds for denial of housing, employment, or professional licensing unless directly related to job duties established by law.

SECTION 10.6. IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING. (a) The Department of Public Safety shall develop training for law enforcement agencies regarding distinctions between lawful consensual prostitution and criminal trafficking or exploitation offenses.

(b) Training developed under this section shall include instruction on identifying signs of human trafficking and distinguishing coercion from lawful consensual activity.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 24, 2026

CHAPTER 17

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 26-028

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lucia Weiss, Julia Willis
also SENATOR(S) Josh Quintana, Eliana Velasco

AN ACT

CONCERNING ESTABLISHING PROTECTIONS FOR INTERSEX INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 25-59-164 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and may be referred to as the "Intersex Infant Protection Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Intersex individuals are persons born with physical sex characteristics that do not fit typical binary definitions of male or female bodies.

(b) Historically, infants born with intersex traits have been subjected to surgical procedures intended to alter their sex characteristics to conform with socially constructed definitions of male or female anatomy.

(c) Many such procedures are performed during infancy or early childhood, before the individual is capable of providing informed consent.

(d) Medical and social understanding of intersex people, gender identity, and human biological diversity has evolved significantly in recent decades.

(e) Surgical interventions performed for cosmetic or psychosocial purposes, rather than for immediate medical necessity, may cause irreversible harm including damage to skin tissue, loss of sexual function, psychological trauma, infertility, and other lifelong complications.

(f) Intersex individuals have increasingly advocated for the right to bodily autonomy and the ability to make their own medical decisions regarding irreversible procedures affecting their bodies.

(g) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that irreversible surgical procedures altering the sex characteristics of intersex infants or children are not performed without the informed consent of the individual once they reach the age of majority.

(h) Nothing in this Act is intended to restrict medically necessary procedures required to address life-threatening conditions or serious medical complications.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Act:

(a) “Intersex” means a person born with variations in sex characteristics, including chromosomes, gonads, hormones, or genital anatomy, that do not conform to typical definitions of male or female bodies.

(b) “Sex characteristic surgical procedure” means any surgical or medical intervention intended to alter, remove, or reconstruct sex characteristics, including genital or reproductive anatomy.

(I) The term includes, but is not limited to, clitoroplasty, vaginoplasty, phalloplasty, orchidopexy when performed for cosmetic symmetry, and the administration of hormonal therapy intended to induce puberty conforming to a specific binary gender prior to the age of consent.

(c) “Medically necessary procedure” means a surgical or medical intervention required to address a condition that poses an immediate threat to the life or physical health of the individual, such procedures include, but are not limited to, the treatment of urinary tract obstructions, rectal atresia, or cancerous gonadal tissue.

(d) “Deferred sex characteristic procedure” means any procedure performed primarily for cosmetic, social, or gender-assignment purposes and not required to prevent death or serious and immediate medical harm.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION ON NON-MEDICALLY NECESSARY SURGERY. (a) No physician, surgeon, hospital, or health-care professional shall perform a Deferred sex characteristic procedure on an intersex minor.

(b) Consent from a parent, guardian, or other individual shall not authorize a procedure prohibited under this section.

(c) Deferred sex characteristic procedures described in subsection (a) may only be performed after the individual has reached eighteen years of age and has provided informed consent.

(d) prior to performing any medically necessary procedure authorized under section 5, the medical provider shall provide the parents or guardians with information regarding independent intersex patient advocacy organizations and peer support groups. The provision of this information shall be documented in the minor's medical record.

SECTION 5. MEDICAL NECESSITY EXCEPTION. (a) A surgical procedure may be performed on an intersex minor if the procedure is medically necessary to: Prevent imminent risk to the life of the child; Prevent serious and irreversible physical harm; or Address a condition that requires immediate medical intervention. A determination of medical necessity shall not be based on psychological or social factors relating to gender conformity or the presumed preferences of the minor in adulthood.

(b) The burden of demonstrating medical necessity shall rest with the physician performing the procedure.

(c) Whenever practicable, a second independent physician, who is not an affiliate or colleague of the performing physician shall confirm the determination of medical necessity prior to the procedure.

(d) The Department of Health shall establish specific medical billing codes for procedures performed under the medical necessity exception. hospitals shall be subject to biennial audits to ensure that procedures coded as "medically necessary" do not circumvent the prohibitions established in section 4.

SECTION 6. INFORMED CONSENT AFTER AGE OF MAJORITY. (a) Upon reaching eighteen years of age, an intersex individual may elect to undergo any medical or surgical procedure related to their sex characteristics.

(b) Such procedures shall require informed consent consistent with applicable state medical standards.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all medical records, including photographic and diagnostic imaging relating to the sex characteristics of an intersex minor shall be preserved for a period of not less than thirty years. an individual shall have the right to access their full, unredacted medical records upon reaching the age of eighteen.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT. (a) A violation of this Act shall constitute unprofessional conduct under the laws governing the licensing of medical professionals in the State of San Andreas.

(b) Any intersex individual subjected to a prohibited procedure may bring a civil action against the person or entity that performed or authorized the procedure.

(I) if the individual is a minor at the time of the discovery of the prohibited procedure, the statute of limitations for such an action shall be tolled until the individual reaches twenty-five (25) years of age.

(c) Courts may award damages, injunctive relief, and reasonable attorney fees to prevailing plaintiffs.

SECTION 8. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. (a) Professional Misconduct. Any physician, surgeon, or licensed medical provider who knowingly performs a sex characteristic surgical procedure prohibited under this Act shall be deemed to have engaged in professional misconduct.

(b) Licensing Consequences. A violation of this Act shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the State Medical Board, including but not limited to:

(I) Suspension of the physician's license;

(II) Revocation of the physician's license;

(III) Administrative fines; or

(IV) Any other disciplinary measures authorized under state law governing medical licensure.

(c) Civil Liability. Any person who performs or authorizes a prohibited procedure under this Act shall be civilly liable to the individual upon whom the procedure was performed. The court may award:

(I) Compensatory damages;

(II) Statutory damages of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) per violation;

(III) Punitive damages where the violation was intentional or willful; and

(IV) Reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

(d) Criminal Penalty. A physician or medical provider who knowingly performs a procedure prohibited under this Act commits a class C felony.

(e) Institutional Responsibility. A hospital, clinic, or medical facility that knowingly permits or facilitates a violation of this Act may be subject to civil penalties and regulatory sanctions as determined by the Department of Health.

SECTION 8.5. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INTERSEX HEALTHCARE.

(a) There is hereby created the advisory council on intersex healthcare within the department of health. The council shall consist of nine members, including:

(I) three intersex individuals;

(II) two medical ethicists;

(III) two pediatric specialists with experience in intersex variations; and

(IV) two representatives from intersex advocacy organizations.

(b) The council shall advise the department on rulemaking, clinical guidelines, and the evaluation of medical necessity standards.

SECTION 9. RULEMAKING. (a) The Department of Health may adopt rules necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this Act.

(b) The Department shall establish a system for the anonymized collection of data regarding medically necessary procedures performed on intersex minors pursuant to section 5. The data shall include the specific medical justification for each procedure and the age of the patient at the time of the intervention.

SECTION 9.5. MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.
The Department of Health, in consultation with intersex advocacy organizations and medical ethicists, shall develop educational materials for healthcare professionals regarding the care of intersex individuals, the importance of bodily autonomy, and the long-term physical and psychological impacts of nonconsensual sex characteristic surgical procedures.

SECTION 10. SAFETY CLAUSE. The General Assembly finds this act necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety, and shall take effect on 12:01 a.m. the day following signature from the governor.

Approved: April 30, 2026

CHAPTER 18

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE BILL 26-010

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Irving Black, Adrienne Cole, Emma Enriquez, Chelsea Mendoza
also SENATOR(S) Albert Petty

AN ACT

CONCERNING TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURITY OF WATER AND AIR.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 25-83-216 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be referred to as the "Water and Air Purity Testing Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Clean air and safe drinking water are fundamental to the health, safety, and welfare of residents of the state.

(b) Environmental contamination poses significant risks to public health, economic stability, and natural resources.

(c) Regular monitoring, testing, and transparent reporting of air and water quality are necessary to ensure compliance with environmental standards and maintain public confidence.

(d) Advances in environmental science and monitoring technology allow for more accurate and timely detection of pollutants.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish consistent statewide standards for testing, reporting, and enforcement relating to air and water purity.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Public Health and Environment.

(b) "Air pollutant" means any particulate matter, gas, vapor, or chemical substance that may harm human health or the environment.

(c) "Water system" means any public or private entity that provides water for human consumption or public use.

(d) "Testing entity" means a laboratory or agency certified by the Department to conduct environmental testing.

(e) "Purity standards" means allowable concentration limits for contaminants established by rule consistent with state and federal environmental standards.

(f) "Certified testing personnel" means individuals who meet training and certification standards established by the Department for conducting environmental sampling and analysis.

SECTION 4. WATER QUALITY TESTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) All public water systems shall conduct routine testing for contaminants identified by the Department, including but not limited to:

(I) Lead and heavy metals;

(II) Bacteria and microbial contaminants;

(III) Industrial chemicals;

(IV) Agricultural runoff contaminants; and

(V) Any additional substances identified by rule; and

(VI) Emerging contaminants, including but not limited to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), pharmaceuticals, and microplastics, as identified by rule.

(b) Testing shall occur at intervals established by the Department; however, testing of primary drinking water sources shall occur at the end of every every sixty days, and systems serving populations exceeding fifty thousand persons shall conduct monthly contaminant monitoring for substances identified as high-risk by the Department.

(I) For purposes of this subsection, “end of every two calendar months” means testing shall occur no later than the last day of each second consecutive calendar month.

(c) Upon detection of contamination exceeding established purity standards, a water system shall notify the Department immediately and shall provide public notice to affected communities within twenty-four hours through electronic notification, public posting, local media outlets in the affected area, and, where feasible, multilingual communication, and direct customer communication where practicable.

(d) A water system detecting contamination exceeding health-based limits shall implement interim mitigation measures, including alternative water supply notification or treatment actions, pending full remediation.

(e) Any contamination result exceeding purity standards shall be confirmed through independent laboratory verification within seventy-two hours unless immediate public health action is required.

(f) County and city governments may designate or establish a department or agency responsible for testing water sources within their jurisdiction. Any such

designated or established entity shall comply with rules adopted by the Department to ensure uniform testing standards across the state.

(g) Each public water system shall undergo an independent third-party audit of its testing procedures and results not less than once every two years. The results of such audits shall be submitted to the Department and made publicly available.

(h) The Department may require immediate additional testing outside of established intervals upon receipt of credible evidence of contamination, environmental hazard, or public health risk.

(i) All water samples collected pursuant to this Act shall follow documented chain-of-custody procedures established by the Department to ensure integrity, traceability, and reliability of test results.

(j) Water systems serving schools, childcare facilities, hospitals, and long-term care facilities shall conduct additional targeted testing for contaminants identified as posing heightened risks to vulnerable populations, as determined by the Department.

SECTION 5. AIR QUALITY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS. (a) The Department shall establish and maintain air quality monitoring standards throughout the state.

(b) Industrial facilities and major emission sources shall conduct periodic emissions testing and reporting as required by rule.

(c) The Department may require additional monitoring in areas identified as having elevated pollution levels or increased public health risk.

(d) The Department shall establish real-time automated air monitoring systems in areas designated as high-risk due to industrial activity, wildfire exposure, population density, or documented pollution exceedances.

(e) Monitoring Limitations. The Department shall not require continuous air monitoring systems unless the costs of such systems are fully subsidized by state or federal grants.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY. (a) The Department shall maintain a publicly accessible online database containing:

(I) Water quality testing results;

(II) Air quality monitoring data;

(III) Notices of violations or exceedances;

(IV) Corrective actions taken;

(V) Historical testing data for not less than five years;

(VI) Geographic mapping of contamination or pollution exceedances; and

(VII) Health advisory notices issued by state or local authorities.

(b) Reports shall be updated regularly and presented in a format accessible to the public, including compliance with accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities and availability in commonly spoken languages within affected communities.

(c) Public reporting required under this section shall include plain-language summaries explaining health risks associated with detected contaminants.

(d) All testing results required under this Act shall be submitted to the Department within seventy-two hours of laboratory confirmation, unless a shorter timeframe is required for contaminants posing immediate public health risks.

(e) All testing data, reports, and related documentation shall be retained by water systems and testing entities for a minimum of ten years and shall be made available to the Department upon request.

(f) The Department shall develop and maintain an integrated emergency notification system capable of issuing real-time alerts to affected residents in the event of significant contamination or public health risk.

(g) County and municipal entities conducting testing pursuant to this Act shall submit an annual summary report to the Department detailing testing activities, findings, and compliance status.

SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE. (a) The Department may issue notices of violation, corrective compliance orders, and administrative penalties not to exceed amounts established by rule based on severity, duration, and degree of negligence, and mandatory remediation requirements.

(b) Continued or willful violations may result in suspension of operating permits or referral for civil enforcement.

(c) Nothing in this Act limits existing enforcement authority under environmental laws.

(d) County and municipal governments that establish or designate testing entities pursuant to this Act may enforce compliance within their jurisdiction, including the issuance of local notices of violation and coordination with the Department for enforcement actions.

(e) Any entity found in violation of this Act more than twice within a three-year period shall be subject to enhanced enforcement actions, including increased penalties, mandatory corrective action plans, and potential suspension of operating authority.

(f) Prior to the issuance of major enforcement actions, including permit suspension or significant penalties, the Department shall provide notice and an opportunity for a public hearing in the affected community.

(g) The Department may assess reasonable fees to cover the costs of certification, oversight, and compliance monitoring under this Act; however, such fees shall be structured to avoid undue burden on small or rural water systems.

SECTION 7.5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (a) The Department shall establish technical assistance and grant support programs for rural or small water systems to achieve compliance with testing and reporting requirements.

(b) The Department may prioritize funding for communities with demonstrated financial hardship or documented contamination risks.

SECTION 7.6. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS. (a) An employee or contractor of a water system, testing entity, or regulated facility shall not be subject to retaliation for reporting violations, contamination risks, or noncompliance with this Act.

(b) The Department shall establish procedures for confidential reporting and investigation of complaints under this section.

SECTION 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Public Health and Environment may promulgate rules necessary to implement and enforce this Act, including purity standards, testing procedures, and reporting requirements, which shall apply uniformly to all state, county, and municipal testing entities. The

Department shall coordinate with state environmental, agricultural, and emergency management agencies to ensure consistent enforcement and response to contamination events.

SECTION 8.5. REPORTING. (a) Beginning January 15, 2028, the Department shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor summarizing:

(I) Statewide contamination trends;

(II) Enforcement actions taken;

(III) Communities disproportionately affected by pollution; and

(IV) Recommendations for statutory improvements.

(b) Beginning on or before July 1, 2027, the Department shall provide an interim report to the General Assembly and the Governor summarizing implementation progress, compliance rates, and any challenges encountered.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD. (a) The Department shall provide a grace period of one hundred eighty days for entities to register their testing protocols.

SECTION 10. SUNSET REVIEW. (a) This Act shall be subject to review by the General Assembly five years after its effective date to evaluate effectiveness, costs, and public health outcomes.

(b) The Department shall provide recommendations regarding continuation, modification, or repeal.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SECTION 12. SAFETY CLAUSE. The General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this Act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: May 1, 2026

CHAPTER 19

CRIMES AND CORRECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-003

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Colleen Bowman, Chelsea Mendoza
also SENATOR(S) Sarah Forbes

AN ACT

CONCERNING FIREARMS BY PROHIBITING PURCHASE OR POSSESSION BY PERSONS WITH A HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SUBJECT TO ACTIVE PROTECTION ORDERS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 18-12-312 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This bill shall be referred to as the "Domestic Violence Firearm Prevention Act".

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Domestic violence presents a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and lives of residents of the state.

(b) The presence of a firearm in situations involving domestic violence significantly increases the risk of serious bodily injury and death to victims, family members, and responding law enforcement officers.

(c) Individuals who have demonstrated a pattern of violent or threatening behavior toward intimate partners or family members pose a heightened risk when permitted to access or possess firearms.

(d) Courts issue civil and criminal protection orders based on specific findings of danger, credible threats, or acts of violence, and compliance with such orders is essential to their protective purpose.

(e) It is the intent of the general assembly to prevent foreseeable harm by temporarily or permanently restricting access to firearms for individuals with a history of domestic violence or who are subject to active protection orders, consistent with constitutional requirements and public safety objectives.

(f) The general assembly further finds that targeted firearm restrictions in domestic violence situations are intended to protect victims while respecting lawful firearm ownership by individuals not subject to protection orders or domestic violence convictions.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Interpersonal violence" means any act of physical force or harassment against a person with whom the actor has a current or former romantic or household relationship.

(b) "Firearm" means any handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other weapon that will or is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

(c) "Protection order" means a temporary or permanent civil or criminal restraining order, protection order, or similar court order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing acts of domestic violence, harassment, stalking, or credible threats of violence.

(d) “Subject to an active protection order” means that a protection order is currently in effect and has not expired, been vacated, or otherwise terminated by the court of record.

(e) “Firearm” shall not include an antique firearm as defined under federal law or a firearm rendered permanently inoperable. “Firearm” shall also not include any relic, curio, or collector’s item as defined by the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives, provided such item is kept in a secure, display-only condition.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS.

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, Title 18, Article 12, add Part 3, Section 12, to read:

(a) A person shall not knowingly purchase, attempt to purchase, possess, or control a firearm if the person:

(I) Has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense involving domestic violence under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States; or

(II) Is subject to an active protection order that includes a finding of credible threat or prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against an intimate partner or family member.

(b) Duration of Prohibition. The prohibition set forth in subsection (a)(i) of this section shall terminate automatically five years after the date of conviction if the person has not committed any subsequent acts of domestic violence during that period.

(c) A person prohibited from possessing firearms under this section shall be notified in writing by the issuing court of the prohibition and the procedures for surrendering firearms in compliance with section 18-12-313.

SECTION 5. SURRENDER AND STORAGE OF FIREARMS.

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, Title 18, Article 12, add Part 3, Section 13, to read:

(a) A person who becomes prohibited from possessing a firearm pursuant to this section shall, within twenty-four hours:

(I) Surrender all firearms in the person's possession or control to a local law enforcement agency; or

(II) Transfer all firearms to a federally licensed firearms dealer or other lawful third party who does not reside with the prohibited person and who is approved by the court, for storage for the duration of the prohibition.

(b) Proof of surrender or transfer shall be provided to the issuing court in a manner prescribed by rule or court order.

(c) Storage Fees. A law enforcement agency may charge the prohibited person a reasonable daily storage fee for any surrendered firearms. If fees remain unpaid for more than one year following the termination of the prohibition, the firearms shall be deemed abandoned and may be disposed of according to local policy.

(d) A person subject to firearm surrender under this Act may request that surrendered firearms be transferred to a federally licensed firearms dealer for lawful sale during the period of prohibition.

(e) Upon expiration or termination of the prohibition described in Section 4 of this Act, a person may apply to the law enforcement agency or third party for the return of surrendered firearms provided the person is otherwise legally eligible to possess firearms.

(f) The court may issue a search warrant upon probable cause where there is reason to believe a prohibited person is in possession of firearms as required under this section.

(g) At the time a protection order containing firearm restrictions is issued, the court shall inform the respondent of the firearm surrender requirements established under this Act and the deadline for compliance.

(h) Law enforcement agencies serving a protection order that includes firearm restrictions shall request that the respondent immediately surrender any firearms in the respondent's immediate possession or control at the time the order is served.

(h.5) Upon the service of a protection order, law enforcement officers shall provide the respondent with a written notice explaining the voluntary surrender process as determined by the department of public safety.

(i) A respondent subject to firearm surrender under this Act shall file with the court a signed affidavit under penalty of perjury confirming compliance with the surrender or lawful transfer requirements. The statement must include the make, model, and serial number of each surrendered firearm. The court shall seal said statement, and it shall not be subject to public inspection except by law enforcement or upon a showing of good cause.

(j) A court may schedule a compliance hearing to verify that a respondent has surrendered or transferred firearms in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

(k) Firearms surrendered pursuant to this Act shall not be destroyed unless otherwise authorized by court order or unless the owner fails to petition for the return of the firearms within two years after the termination of the prohibition.

(l) A court may authorize a respondent to transfer ownership of surrendered firearms to a lawful third party provided the court determines that the transfer will not allow the respondent continued access to or control of the firearms.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES. (a) A person who knowingly violates this section commits a Class B felony offense.

(b) Each firearm unlawfully possessed constitutes a separate offense.

(c) In determining the penalty under this section, courts may consider the number of firearms involved, the duration of unlawful possession, and any prior violations of protection orders.

(d) A person convicted under this section shall be prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms for a period of five years following completion of any sentence imposed for the offense.

SECTION 7. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. (a) The Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the judicial branch and local law enforcement agencies, may promulgate rules as necessary to implement this section, including procedures for firearm surrender, storage, and verification of compliance.

(b) Rules adopted under this section shall include procedures for verifying compliance with firearm surrender requirements imposed by protection orders.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall develop standardized accessible forms for documenting firearm surrender or transfer under this Act.

(d) The Department of Public Safety shall maintain anonymized aggregated data regarding firearms surrendered pursuant to this Act, including the number of protection orders requiring surrender and the number of firearms transferred or seized.

(e) Annual Report. The Department of Public Safety shall submit an anonymized summary report to the general assembly annually. The report shall be limited to the total number of surrendered firearms statewide and shall not disclose data by jurisdiction or specific case type.

(f) Training Materials. The Department of Public Safety shall develop training materials that emphasize the protection of second amendment rights during the surrender process and the prevention of law enforcement overreach in the execution of protection orders.

SECTION 8. SAFETY CLAUSE. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the signature from the governor.

Approved: May 4, 2026

CHAPTER 20

COURTS AND JUDICIAL

HOUSE BILL 26-027

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Anna Kessel, Maggie Ross
also SENATOR(S) Aaliyah Zokaie, Victor Azalea

AN ACT

CONCERNING ESTABLISHING TIME LIMITS FOR PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS FOLLOWING ARREST AND BOOKING.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 18-24-746 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be referred to as the "Probable Cause Hearing Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The Legislature finds and declares that:

(a) The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures.

(b) Individuals arrested without a warrant are entitled to a prompt judicial determination or finding of probable cause to justify their continued detention or restraint of liberty.

(c) In County of Riverside v. McLaughlin, the United States Supreme Court held that jurisdictions must generally provide a probable cause determination within twenty-four (24) hours of a warrantless arrest, and that delays beyond that period are presumptively unconstitutional unless justified by bona fide extraordinary circumstances.

(d) The Court further recognized that delays motivated by administrative convenience, lack of resources, or investigative delay are not sufficient justification for holding an individual without prompt judicial review.

(e) Establishing clear statutory procedures and timelines for probable cause determinations will protect constitutional rights, reduce unlawful detention, and promote consistent administration of justice throughout the state.

(f) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to codify the constitutional requirements established by the United States Supreme Court and ensure that individuals arrested and booked into detention facilities are provided with timely judicial review of the legality of their detention.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Act:

(a) “Probable cause determination” means a judicial finding that sufficient facts exist to reasonably believe that the arrested individual committed the offense alleged.

(b) “Probable cause hearing” means a proceeding before a judge or magistrate for the purpose of making a probable cause determination following a warrantless arrest.

(c) “Booking” or “Booked” means the administrative process by which an arrested individual is formally entered into the custody of a detention facility.

(d) “Judicial officer” means a judge or magistrate authorized by state law or court rule to make probable cause determinations.

(e) “Prompt” means as soon as reasonably feasible, but in no event later than twenty-four hours following a warrantless arrest.

SECTION 4. TIME REQUIREMENT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION. (a) Any person arrested without a warrant and subsequently booked into a jail or detention facility shall receive a judicial determination of probable cause within twenty-four (24) hours of arrest.

(b) The probable cause determination may occur during an initial appearance, bond hearing, arraignment, or a separate hearing conducted for that purpose.

(c) The determination may be made:

(I) In person before a judicial officer;

(II) By secure video or electronic appearance, provided that the arrested individual has the opportunity to consult with counsel immediately before and during such appearance; or

(III) By a judicial officer's review of sworn affidavits or other procedures authorized by law, provided that any affidavit submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be retained as part of the permanent court record and made available to the accused and their counsel upon request.

(d) A delay exceeding twenty-four (24) hours shall be presumed unreasonable and unconstitutional unless the state demonstrates that the delay resulted from extraordinary circumstances.

(e) Extraordinary circumstances may include:

(I) Natural disasters or declared emergencies preventing court operations or physical access to the court;

(II) Severe public safety emergencies; or

(III) Other unforeseen circumstances that make timely judicial review impossible.

(f) The following shall not constitute extraordinary circumstances:

(I) Routine administrative delay;

(II) Court congestion or scheduling difficulties;

(III) Investigative delay for the purpose of gathering additional evidence for the current offense;

(IV) Delay motivated by the convenience of law enforcement or detention officials or;

(V) holidays and weekends, except that a judicial officer may grant a one-time twelve-hour extension upon a specific showing of a localized telecommunications failure.

(g) Right to Counsel. An arrested individual has the right to be represented by counsel during any probable cause determination held pursuant to this section. If the individual is indigent, the court shall appoint the public defender or private counsel at state expense prior to the commencement of the hearing.

SECTION 4.5. MANDATORY PROBABLE CAUSE REVIEW. (a) The custodian of any jail or detention facility shall, within twenty-four hours of an arrested individual's booking, notify the court of the individual's status and provide all arresting documents to the duty judge or magistrate.

SECTION 5. REMEDIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE. (a) A failure to provide a judicial determination of probable cause within the time limits established by this act shall result in the immediate dismissal of the pending charges with prejudice.

(b) The detained individual shall have a civil cause of action against the arresting agency and the detention facility for liquidated damages in the amount of five hundred dollars for every hour of detention beyond the statutory limit.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prevent courts from granting appropriate relief for constitutional violations, including suppression of evidence or other remedies authorized by law.

(d) Upon the release of an individual pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the detention facility shall provide the individual with written documentation stating the reason for release and the fact that the release does not prevent the subsequent filing of criminal charges.

(e) any statements, admissions, or physical evidence obtained from an arrested individual during a period of detention that exceeds the twenty-four (24) hour limit without a judicial determination of probable cause, or during any period of illegal detention shall be presumed involuntary and inadmissible for any purpose, including impeachment in any subsequent criminal proceeding, unless the state rebuts the presumption by clear and convincing evidence.

(f) Burden of Proof. In any proceeding to determine whether extraordinary circumstances justified a delay, the burden shall be on the prosecuting attorney to prove the existence of such circumstances by clear and convincing evidence.

(g) The “Fruit of the poisonous tree” doctrine shall apply to all evidence derived from such statements or admissions.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION. (a) Courts shall establish procedures, including weekend and holiday review schedules, to ensure compliance with the twenty-four (24) hour requirement.

(b) The Chief Judge of each judicial district shall designate at least one judicial officer to be available twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year, for the sole purpose of conducting probable cause reviews via secure electronic means.

(c) The Administrative Office of the Courts may adopt rules necessary to implement this Act.

(d) Annual Reporting. Beginning January 1, 2027, each judicial district shall submit an annual report to the administrative office of the courts and the Judiciary Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing:

(I) the total number of warrantless arrests;

(II) the number of cases where probable cause determinations exceeded twenty-four (24) hours; and

(III) the specific "extraordinary circumstances" cited for each delay.

(e) the administrative office of the courts shall develop and implement mandatory training for judicial officers and court staff regarding the constitutional standards established in county of Riverside v. McLaughlin and the procedural requirements of this act.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026

and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 8, 2026

CHAPTER 21

COURTS AND JUDICIAL

HOUSE BILL 26-031

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Adam Jenkins, Kristina Spencer
also SENATOR(S) Katelyn Garcia, Julian Valdez

AN ACT

CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OBTAIN A SEARCH WARRANT PRIOR TO REVIEWING OR ACCESSING SURVEILLANCE CAMERA RECORDINGS, INCLUDING TRAFFIC CAMERAS, EXCEPT IN LIMITED EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 29-35-258 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the “Surveillance Privacy Protection Act.”

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Surveillance cameras, including traffic cameras, security cameras, and other automated monitoring systems, have become increasingly common throughout public and private spaces.

(b) While such systems can serve legitimate public safety and traffic management purposes, unrestricted government access to surveillance footage raises significant concerns regarding individual privacy and civil liberties.

(c) Modern surveillance systems are capable of collecting detailed information about an individual's movements, associations, and daily activities.

(d) The constitution of the State of San Andreas guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures and recognizes a strong right to privacy.

(e) The general assembly therefore finds it necessary to ensure that law enforcement agencies obtain a search warrant issued upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation before accessing surveillance footage that may reveal personal or identifying information about individuals.

(f) Establishing clear warrant requirements for surveillance footage protects constitutional rights while preserving the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes through lawful judicial oversight.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Law enforcement agency” means any state, county, municipal, or other governmental entity authorized to investigate criminal activity or enforce the laws of this state, including any task force or multi-jurisdictional unit operating within the state.

(b) “Surveillance camera” means any fixed or mobile camera system used to capture video images for monitoring, security, traffic enforcement, or investigative purposes, including but not limited to traffic cameras, automated license plate reader cameras, public safety cameras, privately owned cameras

accessible by government request, whether accessed directly or through a third-party service provider, and body-worn cameras when used for retrospective review rather than real-time monitoring.

(c) "Surveillance footage" means any video recording, still image, or digital record, including associated metadata such as timestamps, geolocation, or device identifiers captured by a surveillance camera.

(d) "Access" means reviewing, obtaining, copying, downloading, or otherwise examining, including the use of automated systems to analyze or process such surveillance footage.

(e) 'Exigent circumstances' means circumstances requiring immediate action where obtaining a warrant would be impracticable.

SECTION 4. WARRANT REQUIREMENT FOR SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE. (a) A law enforcement agency shall not access or obtain surveillance footage, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining a search warrant issued by a judge upon a showing of probable cause, or a court order of equivalent constitutional sufficiency, except as otherwise expressly provided in this act.

(b) A warrant issued under this section shall:

(I) Particularly describe the location of the surveillance camera or system, or the network to which such camera belongs;

(II) Specify the date and time range within which surveillance footage may be collected, which shall be narrowly tailored and not exceed twelve hours unless extended by the court for good cause shown;

(III) Identify the offense under investigation, including a brief statement of facts establishing probable cause;

(IV) Limit the scope of the search to footage reasonably related to the investigation; and

(V) Include minimization procedures to limit the collection and retention of information not relevant to the investigation.

(VI) Notwithstanding subsection (II), limit the total amount of surveillance footage that may be obtained pursuant to the warrant to no more than ten minutes in aggregate duration, unless the court makes a specific finding that a greater amount is necessary and narrowly tailored to the investigation.

(c) A warrant issued under this section shall expire within ten days unless executed. If a warrant expires without execution, any subsequent warrant for the same footage shall require a showing of new or additional probable cause.

(d) Any surveillance footage obtained pursuant to this section shall be logged, including the identity of the officer accessing the footage, the date and time of access, and the purpose of the access.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY EXCEPTION. (a) A law enforcement agency may access surveillance footage without a warrant if the agency reasonably believes that an emergency involving immediate danger of death, kidnapping, serious bodily injury, or the imminent destruction of evidence, a terrorist threat to public infrastructure, or the need to prevent the escape of a suspect who has committed a crime of violence requires immediate access.

(b) When access occurs under this section, the law enforcement agency shall apply for a search warrant supported by a written affidavit detailing the emergency circumstances within twenty-four hours after accessing the footage.

(c) If a court determines that the emergency access was not justified, the footage obtained shall be inadmissible in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding.

(d) A law enforcement agency invoking this section shall document in writing the specific facts giving rise to the emergency and retain such documentation for not less than five years.

(e) A court reviewing emergency access shall give priority to such applications and rule without unnecessary delay.

SECTION 6. LIMITATION ON GENERALIZED SURVEILLANCE SEARCHES. (a) Law enforcement agencies shall not conduct generalized or bulk searches, including but not limited to geofence searches or reverse-location tracking of surveillance camera networks without individualized probable cause supported by specific and articulable facts.

(b) Warrants authorizing surveillance footage searches must be limited in scope, duration, and geographic area to prevent indiscriminate review of large-scale surveillance networks.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a warrant issued for the collection of surveillance footage shall limit the amount of footage obtained to no more than ten minutes in total duration, unless the court finds, based on specific and articulable facts, that a longer duration is necessary and narrowly tailored to the investigation.

(d) A warrant for surveillance footage shall not be used to circumvent the aggregate duration limits set forth in Section 4(b)(VI), and any collection exceeding twenty minutes without a specific judicial finding shall be deemed an unlawful generalized search.

SECTION 7. PROHIBITION ON BIOMETRIC SURVEILLANCE. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a law enforcement agency shall not use facial recognition, biometric scanning, or any form of automated Artificial Intelligence analytics to identify individuals in surveillance footage. Any evidence obtained in violation of this section shall be permanently inadmissible.

SECTION 8. EXCLUSIONS. This act does not prohibit:

(a) Law enforcement agencies from reviewing surveillance footage captured by cameras owned and operated by the agency itself in real time, provided that such review does not involve the retrospective identification of specific individuals without a warrant, for traffic control, emergency response, or public safety monitoring, provided that any retained footage is not subsequently accessed for investigative purposes without a warrant;

(b) Private Participation. A private entity or individual shall not provide surveillance footage to a law enforcement agency without a warrant unless the footage depicts the commission of a felony occurring on the private entity's premises and the footage is provided within twenty-four hours of the event.

(c) Public Infrastructure. The use of surveillance cameras by a public body for the sole purpose of monitoring traffic flow, weather conditions, or structural integrity of bridges shall be exempt from the reporting requirements of section 11, provided no facial or license plate data is retained.

(d) The use of surveillance footage for training, auditing, or internal review purposes, provided that such use does not involve identification of individuals for investigative purposes without a warrant.

(e) Third-party Data. Law Enforcement shall not circumvent the warrant requirement by purchasing or otherwise acquiring surveillance footage or associated metadata from a data broker or private analytics firm that would require a warrant if obtained directly from the source.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize continuous or real-time remote access to privately owned surveillance systems without a warrant.

SECTION 9. TRANSPARENCY PORTAL. (a) the Attorney General shall maintain a publicly searchable online database of all emergency access invocations, including the name of the invoking agency and the specific exigency cited, redacting only information that would compromise an ongoing investigation.

SECTION 10. EXCLUSIONARY RULE. Evidence obtained in violation of this act shall be suppressed upon motion by an aggrieved party in any court or administrative proceeding, including any licensing, disciplinary, or regulatory proceeding within the State of San Andreas. Such suppression shall not preclude the use of evidence for impeachment purposes where otherwise permitted by law.

SECTION 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) Each law enforcement agency shall submit an annual report to the attorney general detailing the number of warrants sought under this act, the number granted or denied, and the number of times emergency access was invoked.

(b) Such reports shall be made publicly available in aggregate form.

SECTION 12. DATA RETENTION AND DELETION. (a) Surveillance footage obtained pursuant to a warrant shall not be retained longer than necessary to achieve the purpose of the warrant and shall be deleted within ninety days unless retained as evidence in a pending case.

(b) Footage obtained without a warrant under Section 5 shall be deleted within thirty days unless a warrant is subsequently obtained.

(c) Any law enforcement officer who willfully fails to delete footage within the timelines prescribed in this section shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension without pay.

SECTION 13. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION. (a) Any person aggrieved by a violation of this act may bring a civil action for damages and equitable relief.

(b) A prevailing plaintiff may recover actual damages, statutory damages of not less than $2,500 per violation, reasonable attorney fees, and court costs.

(c) A prevailing plaintiff shall be entitled to statutory damages in the amount of $10,000 per violation or $1,000 per day that the violation continues, whichever is greater, plus punitive damages upon a showing of malice.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 15, 2026

CHAPTER 22

NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE BILL 26-029

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Roselyn Medrano, Maya Clark
also SENATOR(S) Amoura Sanchez, Bailey Guzman

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF STANDARD SEARCH AND SEIZURE REQUIREMENTS TO WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND ESTABLISHING REMEDIES FOR UNLAWFUL SEARCHES CONDUCTED BY FEDERAL OFFICERS WITHIN THE STATE.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 33-57-118 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the "Wildlife Constitutional Compliance Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures apply equally to all persons and must be respected by every government officer exercising law enforcement authority.

(b) In certain jurisdictions, wildlife officers, game wardens, or other natural-resource enforcement personnel have historically exercised search and seizure authority under statutory provisions that do not clearly require compliance with the same constitutional standards imposed upon other peace officers.

(c) While wildlife conservation and enforcement of hunting and fishing laws are important state interests, those interests must be pursued in a manner consistent with constitutional protections and civil liberties.

(d) The people of this state possess the right to be secure in their persons, homes, property, vehicles, and effects against unreasonable governmental intrusion.

(e) The General Assembly therefore finds it necessary to clarify that wildlife officers and game wardens must comply with the same search and seizure requirements as all other peace officers of this state.

(f) The General Assembly further finds that residents of this state must have access to effective judicial remedies when constitutional rights are violated, including when such violations are committed by federal officers acting within the state, consistent with the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

(g) It is therefore the intent of the General Assembly to ensure uniform constitutional enforcement standards across all law enforcement agencies and to provide meaningful remedies for violations.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Wildlife officer" or "game warden" means any peace officer employed or duly commissioned by a state department, agency, or division responsible for wildlife, parks, natural resources, hunting, fishing, or environmental

enforcement, including any officer acting under interagency agreement or cross-commissioning authority.

(b) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as defined under state law and includes any officer authorized to enforce criminal laws.

(c) "Federal officer" means any officer, employee, or agent of the United States government acting under color of federal authority.

(d) 'Search' and 'seizure' shall have the same meaning as interpreted under state and federal constitutional law.

SECTION 4. SEARCH AND SEIZURE REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLIFE OFFICERS. (a) A wildlife officer or game warden shall be subject to the same constitutional and statutory requirements governing searches, seizures, detentions, and inspections as apply to all other peace officers in this state, including adherence to all judicially recognized limitations on such authority, regardless of the location of the enforcement activity, including public lands, private lands, and state waterways.

(b) No wildlife officer shall conduct a search, or regulatory or administrative inspection of a person, vehicle, residence, private land, container, or other property unless:

(I) A valid warrant has been issued by a court upon probable cause, particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized; or

(II) A recognized exception to the warrant requirement applies under state or federal constitutional law, supported by specific and articulable facts.

(b.5) Consent to search must be freely and voluntarily given and shall not be obtained through coercion, intimidation, or misrepresentation of authority.

(c) The existence of hunting, fishing, or outdoor recreation activity, possession of hunting or fishing equipment, or presence in a wildlife management area, alone shall not constitute probable cause or reasonable suspicion, sufficient to justify a search or seizure.

(d) Any statutory or regulatory provision granting wildlife officers broader authority to conduct suspicionless searches or inspections inconsistent with constitutional search standards is hereby repealed or superseded to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5. EVIDENTIARY EXCLUSION. (a) Evidence obtained in violation of this act or in violation of the constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures shall be inadmissible in evidence upon a timely motion by an aggrieved party in any court of this state.

(b) The exclusionary rule established by this section shall apply in both criminal and civil proceedings, including administrative hearings conducted by any state agency.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of evidence for impeachment purposes where otherwise permitted by law.

(d) A court shall make written findings when denying a motion to suppress under this section.

SECTION 6. CIVIL ACTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS. (a) Any person whose rights under the constitution or laws of this state are violated by a wildlife officer acting under color of law may bring a civil action for damages and equitable relief, including but not limited to the expungement of records or return of unlawfully seized property in a court of this state.

(b) In a successful action under this section, a court may award:

(I) Actual damages;

(II) Statutory damages not less than $500 and not more than $5,000 per violation;

(III) Injunctive relief;

(IV) Declaratory relief;

(V) Reasonable attorney fees and court costs; and

(VI) Costs associated with expert witnesses where reasonably incurred.

(c) Qualified immunity shall not be a defense where the officer's conduct was willful and wanton, or in reckless disregard of clearly established constitutional rights, or in any other manner as established by state or federal law.

(d) An action brought under this section shall have a statute of limitations of two years from the date the violation was discovered or reasonably should have been discovered.

SECTION 7. FEDERAL OFFICER COOPERATION. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with the lawful exercise of federal jurisdiction by federal officers or to create a state cause of action against a federal officer acting within the scope of their employment pursuant to the laws of the United States.

SECTION 8. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. (a) The state Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) authority, in consultation with the state Attorney General, shall update training requirements to ensure wildlife officers receive instruction regarding constitutional search and seizure standards.

(b) Such training shall emphasize warrant requirements, probable cause standards, and lawful investigative practices, including instruction on recent case law developments and liability exposure.

(c) The training required by this section shall be completed within one year after the effective date of this act and shall be included as part of ongoing continuing education requirements.

(d) Each wildlife officer shall certify completion of such training annually.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, including its application to federal officers.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 15, 2026

CHAPTER 23

STATE GOVERNMENT

SENATE BILL 26-003

BY SENATOR(S) Cheyenne Esparza, Eliana Velasco
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Angelica Wood, Sierra Peterson

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARDIZED CLEMENCY APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS IN THE STATE OF SAN ANDREAS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 16-23-245 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be referred to as "Clemency Application & Review Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(a) The clemency power is a constitutional executive function intended to provide relief in cases where continued punishment no longer serves justice, proportionality, or public safety.

(a.5) the General Assembly further finds that clear standards for commutation help ensure that incarceration continues only so long as necessary to achieve the goals of sentencing.

(b) Clemency is not a substitute for appeal or post-conviction relief and shall not be used to relitigate guilt or innocence.

(c) Individuals should have meaningful and equitable access to the clemency process regardless of education, legal sophistication, or financial resources.

(d) A structured and transparent clemency review process promotes fairness, consistency, and public confidence in executive decision-making.

(e) The purpose of this Act is to establish a uniform, accessible, and constitutionally sound process for clemency applications while preserving the separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Clemency” means executive relief in the form of a pardon, commutation of sentence, or reprieve.

(b) Pardon. ‘pardon’ means the full and unconditional forgiveness of a conviction that vacates the judgment, nullifies the underlying conviction for all legal purposes, and restores all civil rights.

(c) “Commutation” means a reduction in the severity or duration of a sentence.

(d) “Reprieve” means a temporary delay in the execution or enforcement of a sentence.

(e) “Department” means the Department of Law.

(f) “Pardon Attorney” means a state-employed attorney assigned to review clemency applications pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION PROCESS. (a) Simplified Application. An individual seeking clemency may apply by submitting a written letter.

(b) Form of Application. The application:

(I) may be handwritten, typed, or submitted via an oral recording for applicants with disabilities or literacy barriers;

(II) shall be considered filed upon delivery to any state official.

(c) Required Contents. The application shall not be limited to:

(I) The applicant's name and Department of Corrections identification number, if applicable;

(II) The type of relief requested; and

(III) A brief statement explaining the basis for the request.

(d) Submission Through Department of Corrections. Applications submitted by incarcerated individuals shall be delivered to Department of Corrections staff.

(e) Duties of Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections shall:

(I) Log receipt of the application;

(II) Verify the applicant's identity and sentence status; and

(III) Forward the application to the Department within ten business days;

(IV) a statement of support from a community member, employer, or family member; and

(V) a description of the applicant's plans for re-entry, if applicable.

(f) Applicants shall not be required to submit applications directly to the Governor.

SECTION 5. APPOINTMENT OF PARDON ATTORNEY. (a) Upon receipt of an application, the Department shall assign a Pardon Attorney.

(b) The Pardon Attorney shall:

(I) Conduct a comprehensive review of the application;

(II) Ensure that all relevant information is collected and verified;

(III) interview the applicant and, where practicable, the applicant's family or community supporters; and

(IV) Serve as the primary fact-gatherer for the executive clemency process.

(c) Legal Status. The pardon attorney shall be a non-partisan appointee whose sole duty is to ensure the governor has a complete and accurate record. The appointment shall be for a term of six years to ensure continuity across administrations.

(d) Reviewing Standards. The pardon attorney shall evaluate every application under a preponderance of the evidence standard regarding the applicant's rehabilitation and current threat to public safety.

(e) Right to Counsel. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an applicant from retaining private counsel to assist in the clemency process or to supplement the record compiled by the pardon attorney.

SECTION 6. SCOPE OF REVIEW. The Pardon Attorney shall compile a complete clemency record, including:

(a) Case History: Charging documents, plea agreements, trial outcomes, sentencing records, and supervision history;

(b) Applicant Background: Criminal history, social history, education, employment, and family support;

(c) Mitigating Factors: Age at the time of the offense, role of coercion or trauma, evidence of accountability, and passage of time;

(d) Rehabilitation: Institutional conduct, program completion, educational achievements, and community support;

(e) Public Safety Assessment: An evaluation of the applicant's risk to public safety.

SECTION 6.5. MANDATORY RECORD INCLUSIONS. The Pardon Attorney shall include in the dossier:

(a) A statement from the sentencing judge, if available;

(b) A statement from the prosecuting attorney who handled the case; and

(c) Any letters of support from correctional officers or rehabilitative program facilitators.

SECTION 7. JUDICIAL REFERRAL. (a) If the pardon attorney identifies a credible claim of innocence or a constitutional violation, the pardon attorney shall

immediately refer the matter to the office of the state public defender or the office of alternate defense counsel for evaluation of judicial remedies.

(b) The governor may grant a reprieve pending the outcome of any judicial proceedings resulting from such referral.

SECTION 8. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXECUTIVE REVIEW. (a) Eligibility. Every individual convicted of a crime in this state is eligible for executive review. The pardon attorney shall not utilize any minimum sentence served requirement as a bar to forwarding an application to the governor.

(b) Only applications grounded in equity shall be forwarded to the Governor.

SECTION 9. SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR. (a) The Pardon Attorney shall prepare a clemency dossier including:

(I) A factual summary;

(II) Legal posture of the case;

(III) Mitigating and rehabilitative factors;

(IV) Public safety assessment; and

(V) A recommendation.

(b) The Governor may:

(I) Request additional information;

(II) Notify and seek input from victims and the prosecuting attorney; and

(III) Grant, partially grant, or deny the application.

SECTION 10. EFFECT OF CLEMENCY. (a) Clemency does not vacate or invalidate a conviction.

(b) Clemency does not constitute a finding of judicial error.

(c) Clemency reflects an exercise of executive discretion based on mercy, equity, and public interest.

(d) Finality. The governor’s decision to grant or deny clemency is final and not subject to judicial or legislative review; however, a denial shall not prevent an applicant from re-applying after three years have elapsed since the date of denial.

SECTION 11. TRANSPARENCY AND NOTICE. (a) Applicants shall receive written notice of the final decision.

(b) Public Reporting. The department shall publish a monthly report on its website listing all pending applications by identification number, the date filed, and the current stage of review to ensure procedural transparency.

(c) Aggregate data and trends, including data on the racial and socioeconomic demographics of applicants and recipients may be used to inform policy or legislative recommendations.

SECTION 12. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 13. INDIGENT REPRESENTATION. (a) The Department shall establish a program to provide volunteer legal assistance or law student clinical support to indigent applicants to ensure equitable access to the clemency process as declared in section 2 of this act.

SECTION 14. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 23, 2026

CHAPTER 24

COURTS AND JUDICIAL

SENATE BILL 26-004

BY SENATOR(S) Zeke Castillo, Anja Daugherty
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brooklynn Suarez, Marlon Perez

AN ACT

CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS FOR WARRANTS AND REQUIRING TIMELY RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 38-24-287 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the "Search Warrant Accountability and Property Protection Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The issuance and execution of search warrants must be grounded in reliable and verifiable evidence;

(b) Warrants based solely on uncorroborated statements or informant claims increase the risk of unlawful searches and property damage;

(c) Property owners should not bear the cost of government error when warrants are improperly issued or executed;

(d) The prolonged retention of seized property without sufficient justification imposes undue hardship; and

(e) It is therefore necessary to establish clear evidentiary standards, accountability measures, and timelines for the return of property.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Search warrant" means any warrant issued by a court authorizing a search or seizure.

(b) "Invalid warrant" means a warrant that is:

(I) Issued without probable cause;

(II) Issued in material violation of state or federal constitutional requirements or;

(III) Based solely on uncorroborated statements or allegations; or

(IV) Based on information provided by an informant without independent evidence supporting the reliability of the claim.

(c) "Independent evidence" means physical evidence, documented observations by law enforcement, reliable records, or corroborated testimony, or the affidavit from a source other than the originating informant.

(d) "Seized property" means any real or personal property taken or detained by law enforcement pursuant to a search warrant.

(e) "Law enforcement agency" means any state or local agency or officer authorized to execute search warrants.

SECTION 4. EVIDENTIARY REQUIREMENTS FOR WARRANT APPLICATIONS. (a) A law enforcement officer applying for a search warrant shall present sufficient evidence to establish probable cause based on verifiable facts and circumstances.

(b) Corroboration Required. No search warrant shall issue based on the testimony or affidavit of an informant unless such testimony or affidavit is corroborated by at least two independent sources of evidence, one of which must be physical evidence, or by electronic surveillance recordings.

(c) When an informant is used, the application shall include:

(I) Evidence supporting the credibility or reliability of the informant; and

(II) Independent evidence corroborating the material elements of the informant’s claims.

(d) A warrant issued in violation of this section by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be deemed invalid.

SECTION 4.5. MANDATORY VIDEO RECORDING. (a) The execution of every search warrant shall be recorded in its entirety by body-worn cameras.

(b) If a law enforcement officer willfully deactivates a recording device during the execution of a warrant, any evidence seized therein shall be inadmissible.

SECTION 5. LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE. (a) A law enforcement agency shall be liable for damage to real or personal property resulting from the execution of any search warrant, regardless of the warrant's validity, if the property owner is not subsequently charged with a crime related to the items seized or the premises searched.

(b) Liability under this section applies regardless of whether the officers acted in good faith.

(c) A property owner may recover:

(I) The reasonable cost of repair or replacement;

(II) Compensation for loss of use of the property; and

(III) Any other documented consequential damages.

SECTION 6. RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY. (a) Seized property shall be returned to its lawful owner not later than forty-five days days after the date of seizure unless:

(I) The property is being held as evidence in a pending criminal prosecution, provided that the property is not contraband; or

(II) A court orders continued retention upon a showing of good cause.

(b) Preservation of Evidence. If seized property is subject to testing or analysis that may alter its condition, the state shall provide the owner with ten days' notice and an opportunity to have an independent expert present during such testing.

(c) If the state fails to return property within the time required by this section, the property owner may seek immediate judicial relief.

SECTION 7. CIVIL ACTION. (a) A person aggrieved by a violation of this act may bring a civil action against the law enforcement agency responsible.

(b) In a successful action, a court may award:

(I) Actual damages;

(II) statutory damages in the amount of three times the actual damages or $10,000, whichever is greater;

(III) Injunctive or declaratory relief; and

(IV) Reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

(c) No governmental immunity shall be a defense to liability for actual damages under this act.

(d) Attorney Fees. A prevailing property owner in a claim for damages under this section shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs, regardless of the amount of damages recovered.

(e) Accountability for Perjury. If a law enforcement officer is found to have materially misrepresented the reliability of an informant or fabricated independent corroboration in a warrant application, the officer shall be immediately terminated from employment and barred from any future law enforcement service in this state.

(f) Personal Liability. Notwithstanding any indemnification agreement, an officer who executes a warrant in reckless disregard of the evidentiary standards

in section 4 shall be personally liable for twenty-five percent of any damages awarded, to be paid from the officer's personal assets or pension.

(g) The Blue Wall of Silence. Any officer who witnesses the malicious destruction of property during a search and fails to report such conduct to the attorney general within forty-eight hours shall be charged as an accessory to the underlying offense.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions of the act.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 23, 2026

CHAPTER 25

BUSINESS AND LABOR

HOUSE BILL 26-032

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sarah Gomes, Gabriella Cardenas
also SENATOR(S) Anja Daugherty

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE LIMITATION OF MANDATORY ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ENSURING ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 6-29-105 as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fair Access to Courts Act."

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Mandatory arbitration agreements are frequently imposed in employment and consumer contracts as a condition of participation, including through standardized or adhesion contracts;

(b) Such agreements often limit access to the courts and reduce transparency, limit public accountability, and restrict the development of legal precedent in dispute resolution;

(c) Individuals should retain meaningful access to a judicial forum for the resolution of disputes; and

(d) It is therefore necessary to eradicate coercive privatized justice system interferences and ensure that arbitration is used only when knowingly and voluntarily agreed to, free from coercion, misrepresentation, or unequal bargaining pressure.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Arbitration agreement" means an agreement requiring a dispute to be resolved by arbitration rather than in a court of law, including any clause that limits participation in class or collective proceedings.

(b) "Pre-dispute arbitration agreement" means any arbitration agreement entered into before a dispute arises.

(c) "Covered contract", whether written, electronic, or implied, including any modification, renewal, or extension thereof, means any agreement involving:

(I) Employment;

(II) Consumer goods or services;

(III) Housing or tenancy; or

(IV) Insurance services, including banking, lending, credit, and investment services.

(d) "Post-dispute arbitration" means arbitration agreed to by all parties after a dispute has arisen.

(e) ‘Knowing and voluntary’ means assent given with clear understanding of the rights waived and without material imbalance in bargaining power.

(f) ‘Adhesion contract’ means a standardized contract drafted by one party and presented to the other on a take-it-or-leave-it basis without a meaningful opportunity to negotiate.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITION ON PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION. (a) A person or entity shall not directly or indirectly require a pre-dispute arbitration agreement as a condition of:

(I) Employment or continued employment, including as a condition of promotion, compensation, or receipt of benefits;

(II) The purchase or use of consumer goods or services, including through clickwrap or browsewrap agreements;

(III) Access to housing or rental agreements;

(IV) Access to financial or insurance services; or

(V) The continued use of a digital platform, application, or online service.

(b) Commercial Dispute Exception. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, pre-dispute arbitration agreements remain valid and enforceable in all contracts valued at over one million dollars, regardless of the relative bargaining power of the parties.

(c) Criminal Penalties. Any corporate officer who knowingly includes a prohibited pre-dispute arbitration clause in a consumer or employment contract commits a class 2 misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. PERMITTED ARBITRATION. (a) Arbitration may be used only where all parties voluntarily agree after a dispute has arisen, and such agreement shall be revocable by any party within fourteen days of execution.

(b) Arbitration may also be used in disputes between commercial entities of comparable bargaining power as demonstrated by the totality of the circumstances, where the agreement:

(I) Is individually negotiated, and not presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis;

(II) Clearly discloses the waiver of the right to a judicial forum; and

(III) Provides for a neutral arbitrator, not compensated by the corporate entity, or person(s) hired from the corporate entity seeking arbitration, and reasonable discovery procedures.

(c) This section does not apply where arbitration is required by federal law, including where preemption applies under the Federal Arbitration Act.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit arbitration agreements that waive substantive statutory rights.

SECTION 6. PRESERVATION OF COURT ACCESS. (a) Any person subject to an agreement prohibited under this act retains the right to:

(I) Bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary;

(II) Participate in a class or collective action as otherwise permitted by law, and no agreement may waive such participation prior to the existence of a dispute; and

(III) Seek public injunctive relief where authorized by law

(b) Any waiver of rights described in this section is void and unenforceable, and any such provision shall be severed in favor of preserving court access.

(c) Any ambiguity in an agreement shall be construed in favor of access to a judicial forum.

(d) Courts shall resolve any doubts concerning the enforceability of arbitration agreements in favor of permitting access to judicial proceedings.

(e) Class Action Rights. The right to participate in a class or collective action is an inalienable right. any waiver of class action participation in any dispute resolution forum is null, void, and unenforceable, without exception.

SECTION 7. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS. (a) Any arbitration agreement permitted under this act shall:

(I) Be in writing, signed or explicitly electronically affirmed by all parties;

(II) Be clear and conspicuous, in at fourteen-point font, or its digital equivalent;

(III) State that arbitration is voluntary and not required as a condition of service or employment; and

(IV) be provided in the primary language spoken by the consumer or employee.

(b) Failure to comply with this section renders the agreement unenforceable.

(c) The party seeking to enforce an arbitration agreement shall bear the burden of proving compliance with this section.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT. (a) The attorney general, including through civil penalties not to exceed $5,000 per violation, may bring an action to enforce this act.

(b) A person aggrieved by a violation of this act may bring a civil action, individually or as part of a class or collective action, for:

(I) Declaratory or injunctive relief;

(II) Actual damages, including statutory damages of not less than $2,500 per violation; and

(III) Reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

(c) Bilateral Attorney Fees. In any civil action brought under this act, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs, regardless of whether the plaintiff brought the claim in good faith.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026

and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 28, 2026

CHAPTER 26

ELECTIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-034

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Adam Jenkins, Hannah Hurst
also SENATOR(S) Julian Valdez, Raquel Cardenas

AN ACT

CONCERNING VOTER REGISTRATION, IDENTIFICATION, AND ELECTION PROCEDURES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING SAME-DAY REGISTRATION, MAIL-IN VOTING SAFEGUARDS, ELECTION SECURITY STANDARDS, AND AFFIRMING STATE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ELECTIONS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 1-31-102 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the “San Andreas Free Elections Act”.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Voting is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of democracy in San Andreas.

(b) Elections must be secure, transparent, and accessible to all eligible citizens.

(c) Citizens should be able to register and vote in a timely, convenient, and verifiable manner.

(d) Mail-in voting, early voting, and same-day registration expand access while maintaining election integrity.

(e) The State retains sovereign authority to conduct elections as it deems appropriate, regardless of federal law, so long as no eligible voter is disenfranchised.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act:

(a) “Citizen” means a natural-born or naturalized citizen of the United States.

(b) “Eligible voter” means a citizen of San Andreas, at least eighteen years of age by Election Day, who meets residency requirements and is not otherwise disqualified, and who is a resident of the precinct in which they seek to vote.

(c) “Polling place” means any location designated for in-person voting, including early voting sites.

(d) “Mail-in ballot” means a ballot cast remotely and returned by mail in accordance with this Act.

(e) “Provisional ballot” means a ballot issued when eligibility or identification cannot be immediately verified.

(f) “Secretary of State” means the officer responsible for overseeing election administration within San Andreas.

SECTION 4. VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) To register to vote, an eligible individual must provide:

(I) A valid San Andreas driver’s license or state-issued identification card.

(II) Proof of citizenship, including a certified birth certificate or other recognized document as determined by the Secretary of State.

(III) the full nine digits of the applicant's social security number;

(IV) proof of residency: a single utility bill or lease agreement showing the applicant's name and current address within the precinct dated within thirty days of registration.

(b) Registration may be completed in person, by mail, or via a secure web-based portal if the Secretary of State establishes secure online procedures.

(c) Automatic Voter Registration. The secretary of state shall automatically register to vote every eligible citizen upon receiving verifiable data from the department of revenue, unless the individual explicitly opts out at the time of the transaction. The secretary of state is prohibited from purging any voter from the rolls within ninety days of an election based on intrastate residency records.

SECTION 5. SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION. (a) Eligible individuals may register and vote on the same day at any polling place during early voting or on Election Day.

(b) Same-day registrants must present the identification and documentation required under Section 4.

(c) Provisional ballots shall be issued if eligibility cannot be verified immediately, with verification procedures completed before final tabulation.

SECTION 6. VOTER IDENTIFICATION AND PROHIBITION ON BALLOT HARVESTING. (a) Voter Identification Requirements. To vote in person, a voter shall present any document showing the voter's name and address, including a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or student identification card issued by an institution of higher education within San Andreas.

(I) A U.S. passport or military identification;

(II) Tribal identification recognized by the State.

(b) No additional identification shall be required if a valid ID is presented.

(c) Mail-in ballots require signature verification against the voter’s records on file with the county clerk.

(d) Voters whose signatures do not match may cure the discrepancy in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of State.

SECTION 7. MAIL-IN AND EARLY VOTING. (a) Any registered voter may request a mail-in ballot, subject to deadlines established by the Secretary of State.

(b) Mail-in ballots shall be returned by eight o'clock p.m on Election Day or any lawful extended acceptance period established by law.

(c) Early voting sites shall provide same-day registration and voting.

(d) Election officials shall securely handle, count, and preserve all early and mail-in ballots.

(e) Assistance with ballot Return. Any registered voter may designate any person of their choosing to collect and return their voted mail-in ballot to a drop box or county clerk facility, and no person shall limit the number of ballots an individual may collect and return on behalf of others.

(f) all signatures on mail-in ballots must be verified against the voter's original wet-ink signature on their registration form.

(g) if a signature is rejected, the county clerk shall notify the voter via electronic mail, text message, or first-class mail. No ballot may be cured after seven o'clock p.m. on the day preceding the election.

(h) Any person registering to vote within twenty-one days of an election shall have their ballot cast provisionally until their residency has been verified through a database comparison by the secretary of state or the department of revenue.

(i) if residency cannot be verified within ten days following the election, the provisional ballot shall be deemed void and destroyed.

SECTION 8. PROVISIONAL BALLOTS AND ELECTION SECURITY. (a) Provisional ballots shall be issued when voter eligibility or identity cannot be immediately verified.

(b) Provisional ballots shall be verified and counted once eligibility is confirmed.

(c) Voter Roll Maintenance. The secretary of state shall conduct a quarterly cross-reference of voter rolls against the San Andreas department of public health death records and the department of revenue residency records. any individual found to be deceased or no longer residing within the state shall be removed from the active voter rolls within thirty days.

(d) Verification of Voter Rolls. The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the Department of Corrections and the Judicial Department to ensure that individuals disqualified from voting due to a felony conviction are removed from the active voter rolls within ten days of conviction or sentencing.

SECTION 8.3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ELECTIONS. State and local election officials are authorized and encouraged to solicit, accept, and expend philanthropic grants and donations from nonpartisan individuals, corporate entities, and nonprofit organizations to fund voter outreach, purchase tabulation equipment, and establish secure drop box locations.

SECTION 8.5. CHAIN OF CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS. (a) The Secretary of State shall mandate a uniform chain-of-custody log for the movement of all ballots from drop boxes or polling places to central counting facilities.

(b) such logs shall be signed by at least two election officials of differing political party affiliation at every point of transfer and shall be made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours of the close of polls.

SECTION 9. INTERSTATE COOPERATION. the Secretary of State shall participate in multi-state data-sharing compacts and electronic registration information systems to cross-reference voter roll data with other jurisdictions to maximize accuracy and maintain up-to-date lists of eligible electors.

SECTION 9.5. VOTING ACCESSIBILITY AND MODERNIZATION. All tabulation equipment used in the state of San Andreas shall utilize secure, cloud-enabled network configurations to allow for the real-time reporting of

county-level results to the public. The secretary of state shall establish a secure web-based portal to allow voters to cast a verified digital mail-in ballot remotely via computer or mobile application.

SECTION 9.6. ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY. Election day, as defined in section 3, shall be observed as a legal state holiday. All non-election related state offices shall be closed, and all eligible employees shall be granted three hours of paid leave for the purpose of casting a ballot.

SECTION 10. STATE SOVEREIGNTY, AUTHORITY, AND PREEMPTION. (a) This Act preempts any future federal legislation attempting to control voter registration, identification, or election procedures within San Andreas.

(b) The General Assembly, as the direct representative of the people, retains the exclusive and sovereign authority to determine election procedures so long as elections are secure and no qualified voter is disenfranchised.

(c) the General Assembly hereby declares that the provisions of this act relating to the time, place, and manner of holding elections for federal office are an exercise of the state's plenary authority under article I, section 4 of the United States constitution.

(d) No executive order, federal regulation, or judicial decree from a federal court shall have the effect of altering the procedures established by this act without the express concurrence of the general assembly by joint resolution.

SECTION 10.5. LEGISLATIVE STANDING TO CHALLENGE. the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the President of the Senate, or their designees, shall have automatic standing to intervene in any legal challenge brought against the provisions of this act to defend the sovereign interest of the state of san andreas in determining the manner of its elections.

SECTION 10.6. REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS. The exclusive remedy for any person alleging a violation of this act shall be an action for declaratory or injunctive relief filed in the Supreme court of San Andreas, which shall have

exclusive original jurisdiction over all challenges to the constitutionality or implementation of this act.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 28, 2026

CHAPTER 27

COURTS AND JUDICIAL

HOUSE BILL 26-037

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brooklynn Suarez, Isaac Mitchell
also SENATOR(S) Benjamin Harrison, Ryan Wells

AN ACT

CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINATION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSITION OF DEFENDANTS FOUND INCOMPETENT.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 13-100-104 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the “Competency Restoration and Behavioral Health First Act.”

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Competency to stand trial is a constitutional requirement grounded in due process;

(b) Defendants found incompetent are more appropriately treated within the behavioral health system than the correctional system;

(c) Institutionalization should be a last resort, with preference given to community-based and least-restrictive treatment options;

(d) Early intervention and diversion reduce recidivism, improve outcomes, and lower system costs; and

(e) The state must ensure timely access to restoration services without unnecessary confinement. The general assembly further declares that the use of long-term inpatient civil commitment should not be an automatic consequence of a finding of non-restorability.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. (a) “Competent to stand trial” means a defendant has:

(I) A rational and factual understanding of the proceedings; and

(II) The ability to consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding.

(b) “Incompetent to stand trial” means a defendant does not meet the standard in subsection (a) due to a behavioral health condition, including mental illness, intellectual disability, brain injury, or developmental disorder.

(c) “Restoration services” means individualized treatment and educational interventions aimed at restoring competency, including clinical stabilization, evidence-based therapy, and legal education tailored to the defendant's cognitive abilities.

(d) Least restrictive setting. ‘least restrictive setting’ means a community-based placement unless the court makes a specific finding on the record that the defendant poses an imminent threat to the physical safety of others.

SECTION 4. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND DIVERSION. (a) At first appearance, courts shall screen for indicators of incompetency.

(b) If indicators are present, the court may:

(I) Order a prompt outpatient evaluation; and

(II) Refer the defendant to voluntary stabilization services prior to formal competency proceedings.

(c) For low-level, non-violent offenses, the court is encouraged to pursue diversion into treatment in lieu of prosecution.

SECTION 5. COMPETENCY EVALUATION. (a) Evaluations shall be conducted as promptly as practicable, with a preference for outpatient and community-based assessments.

(b) Evaluators shall include recommendations for:

(I) Specific treatment needs;

(II) Appropriate level of care; and

(III) Likelihood of restoration in a community setting.

(c) Jail-based evaluations shall be used only when no reasonable alternative exists.

(d) Independent Evaluators. The defendant has the right to an independent evaluation by a qualified professional of the defendant's choosing, to be paid for by the state upon a showing of indigency.

SECTION 6. DETERMINATION OF COMPETENCY. (a) The court shall hold a hearing and determine competency by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) If the defendant is found incompetent, the court shall immediately transition the case to a treatment track.

SECTION 7. COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PRIORITY. (a) Courts shall prioritize outpatient restoration services unless the defendant poses a substantial risk of serious harm.

(b) Community-based restoration may include:

(I) Behavioral health treatment plans;

(II) Medication management;

(III) Case management and peer support;

(IV) Housing assistance; and

(V) Structured competency education programs.

(c) Inpatient commitment shall be ordered only upon written findings that less restrictive alternatives are insufficient.

SECTION 8. INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLANS. (a) Each defendant shall receive a tailored treatment plan addressing clinical and competency-related needs.

(b) Plans must incorporate:

(I) Trauma-informed care;

(II) Cultural competency; and

(III) Coordination with local behavioral health providers.

SECTION 9. PERIODIC REVIEW AND RIGHTS. (a) Courts shall review each case at least every ninety days.

(b) Defendants shall have the right to:

(I) Participate in hearings;

(II) challenge the adequacy of treatment or conditions of confinement;

(III) Request modification to less restrictive settings; and

(IV) Refuse medication absent a separate court order consistent with due process.

SECTION 10. MAXIMUM DURATION AND DISMISSAL. (a) Restoration efforts shall not exceed:

(I) nine months for petty and misdemeanor offenses;

(II) twelve months for non-violent felonies;

(III) Twenty-four months for violent felonies.

(b) If competency is not restored within these periods, the court shall:

(I) Dismiss charges with prejudice for petty offenses and without prejudice for all other offenses; and

(II) Transition the defendant to voluntary or civil behavioral health services, if necessary.

(c) Continued confinement solely for restoration is prohibited beyond these limits.

SECTION 11. PROHIBITION ON JAIL-BASED HOLDING. (a) A defendant found incompetent shall not remain in jail solely due to lack of treatment capacity.

(b) The state shall ensure timely placement in appropriate treatment settings, including community programs.

SECTION 12. FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE. (a) The Department of Health shall expand community restoration programs statewide. The department shall develop a pilot program for peer-led restoration services in at least three counties.

(b) Priority funding shall be directed toward:

(I) Rural and underserved areas;

(II) Mobile crisis response units; and

(III) Supportive housing linked to treatment services.

SECTION 13. DATA COLLECTION AND OVERSIGHT. (a) The Judicial Branch and Department of Health shall jointly track:

(b) Time to evaluation and treatment;

(I) Restoration success rates;

(II) Use of inpatient vs. outpatient services; and

(III) Recidivism outcomes.

(c) Annual reports shall be submitted to the General Assembly with recommendations for improvement.

SECTION 14. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. The judicial branch shall provide annual training on behavioral health conditions and trauma-informed adjudication for all judges and magistrates assigned to criminal dockets.

SECTION 15. SAFETY CLAUSE. The General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 28, 2026

CHAPTER 28

PROPERTY TAXATION

SENATE BILL 26-005

BY SENATOR(S) Katelyn Garcia, Monica Kent
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Roselyn Medrano, Brooklynn Suarez

AN ACT

CONCERNING INCENTIVES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROVIDING TAX BENEFITS, A TIERED HOMESTEAD-STYLE EXEMPTION, ASSESSMENT PROTECTIONS, AND GRANTS TO PROPERTY OWNERS.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 39-15-362 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the "Historic Property Preservation Incentive Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Historic properties are an essential part of the state's cultural heritage and economic vitality;

(b) The preservation of such properties promotes tourism, community identity, and sustainable land use;

(c) The cost of maintaining historic properties, particularly for owner-occupants and seniors on fixed incomes, can be substantial;

(d) Targeted tax relief and financial incentives can ensure the continued preservation of historic resources; and

(e) It is therefore necessary to establish a comprehensive system of incentives to support historic property owners.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Historic property" means any building, structure, or site that is:

(I) Listed on the State Register of Historic Properties; or

(II) Designated as a historic landmark by a local government.

(b) "Qualified rehabilitation" means repairs, alterations, or improvements that:

(I) Preserve the historic character of the property; and

(II) Comply with standards established by the state historical society.

(c) "Owner-occupied historic property" means a historic property that serves as the primary residence of the owner for at least six months of each calendar year.

(d) "Qualified senior" means a property owner who:

(I) Is sixty-five years of age or older; and

(II) Has occupied the property as a primary residence for at least seven consecutive years.

(e) "Household income" means the combined income of all persons residing in the residence, as determined by rule.

SECTION 4. PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR REHABILITATION. (a) An owner of a historic property who completes a qualified rehabilitation is eligible for a property tax credit.

(b) the credit shall be equal to fifteen percent of qualified rehabilitation expenses, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per property over a ten-year period.

(c) The credit may be carried forward for up to ten years.

(d) To qualify, the owner shall demonstrate maintenance of the property in accordance with preservation standards for at least five years following completion.

(e) Recapture Provision. If a property receiving benefits under this act is demolished or altered in a manner that destroys its historic character within ten years of receiving such benefits, the owner shall be liable for the repayment of all tax credits, exemptions, and grants received, plus interest at the statutory rate.

SECTION 5. TIERED HISTORIC HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION. (a) For property tax purposes, an owner-occupied historic property is eligible for an exemption from taxation based on the following tiers:

(I) Standard Tier: sixty thousand dollars of actual value exempted for all qualifying properties.

(II) Moderate-Income Tier: Seventy-five thousand dollars of actual value exempted if household income is below one hundred percent of the area median income.

(III) Low-Income or Rural Tier: One hundred thousand dollars of actual value exempted if:

(A) Household income is below eighty percent of the area median income; or

(B) The property is located in a rural or underserved area as defined by rule.

(b) An owner must:

(I) Occupy the property as a primary residence;

(II) Maintain the property in accordance with preservation standards; and

(III) Apply and provide income verification as required.

(c) The exemption shall be in addition to any other homestead exemption; however, total exemptions shall not exceed fifty percent of the property's actual value.

(d) The department shall annually adjust income thresholds based on updated area median income data.

SECTION 6. SENIOR HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX FREEZE. (a) The assessed value of a historic property owned and occupied by a qualified senior shall be frozen at the level established in the first year the owner qualifies.

(b) The freeze shall remain in effect so long as the owner:

(I) Continues to occupy the property as a primary residence; and

(II) Maintains compliance with preservation standards.

(c) The freeze shall transfer to a surviving spouse who is at least fifty-five years of age and continues to occupy the property.

(d) The freeze shall not apply to:

(I) New construction or additions that increase the footprint of the building; or

(II) Improvements not related to historic preservation. For the purposes of this subsection, 'improvements' shall not include the installation of energy-efficient windows or doors that match the historic aesthetic.

(e) A property receiving a freeze shall remain eligible for the exemption under section 5; however, the frozen value shall be applied prior to calculating any exemption.

SECTION 7. ASSESSMENT LIMITATION. The assessed value of a historic property may not increase by more than three percent annually as a direct result of qualified rehabilitation. This limitation expires five years after the completion of the rehabilitation.

SECTION 8. HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) There is created in the department of local affairs the historic preservation grant program.

(b) The program shall provide grants for qualified rehabilitation of historic properties.

(c) Grants shall not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars per project and shall require a minimum twenty-five percent matching contribution.

(d) Priority shall be given to properties at risk of deterioration that serve a clear public or community purpose.

SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE AND COMPLIANCE. (a) An owner receiving benefits under this act shall maintain the property in good condition consistent with preservation standards.

(b) Failure to comply may result in:

(I) Revocation of benefits; and

(II) Repayment of any tax credits or grant funds received.

SECTION 10. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The state historic preservation office, and the department of revenue shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this act.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act is held invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, and shall apply to property tax years commencing on or after said date, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 29, 2026

CHAPTER 29

PROPERTY TAXATION

HOUSE BILL 26-033

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Noah Moore, Julia Willis
also SENATOR(S) Javier Chavez, Jeff Zamora

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION AND TAXATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFYING AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 39-37-202 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Agricultural Property Tax Relief Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Agricultural land is essential to the economic stability and food security of the State of San Andreas;

(b) Rising property tax burdens threaten the continued viability of family farms, ranches, and small-scale agricultural operations;

(c) It is in the public interest to preserve agricultural land by providing targeted property tax relief; and

(d) A homestead-style exemption for agricultural producers will promote long-term land stewardship and prevent unnecessary conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Agricultural property" means real property that is actively used for the production of crops, livestock, or other agricultural products for commercial purposes, and that such use constitutes the primary use of the property.

(b) "Qualified agricultural owner" means an individual or entity that:

(I) Owns and operates agricultural property; and

(II) Derives at least twenty percent of gross revenue from the sale of agricultural products or the lease of water rights for agricultural use conducted on such property;

(III) shall not include any corporation whose stock is publicly traded on a national exchange or any entity controlled by a non-resident alien or foreign principal.

(c) "Primary agricultural residence" means a dwelling located on agricultural property that is occupied by a qualified agricultural owner as their primary residence.

(d) "Assessed value" means the value assigned to property for property tax purposes under state law.

SECTION 4. AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATION. (a) Agricultural property shall be classified as a distinct property class for taxation purposes.

(b) The assessment rate for agricultural property shall be frozen at 5.0 percent of its actual value for family-owned operations.

(c) Agricultural property shall be valued based on its productive agricultural use value, rather than its highest and best market value.

(d) Corporate Conversion Penalty. Conversion of agricultural property to commercial or industrial use by a corporate entity rather than an individual shall trigger an immediate assessment at triple the highest market value.

(e) Drought Hardship Waiver. The Department of Revenue shall establish a procedure whereby a qualified agricultural owner may maintain their classification during a year of declared drought or natural disaster notwithstanding a failure to meet the minimum income requirements established in Section 6.

SECTION 5. AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION. (a) A qualified agricultural owner may claim a homestead exemption on their primary agricultural residence.

(b) The exemption shall:

(I) Exclude the first $65,000 of assessed value of the primary agricultural residence from taxation; or

(II) Reduce the taxable value of such residence by 35 percent, whichever provides greater benefit.

(c) The exemption shall apply only to one primary agricultural residence per qualified agricultural owner.

(d) The exemption shall not apply to secondary residences, rental properties, or non-agricultural structures.

SECTION 6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. (a) To qualify for benefits under this Act, property must:

(I) consist of no fewer than 80 contiguous acres, except that: specialty agriculture (orchards, vineyards, greenhouses, apiaries, or intensive farming operations) may qualify with a minimum of 5 acres;

(II) Demonstrate active agricultural use for at least 3 consecutive years immediately preceding application; and

(III) generate a minimum of $500 in annual gross agricultural income, it being the intent of the general assembly to protect subsistence and hobby farming operations from urban tax expansion.

(b) The department of revenue shall require the annual submission of federal schedule F tax forms to verify compliance with income requirements; failure to submit such forms constitutes requisite ground for immediate revocation of classification.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION. (a) Property owners must apply on or before April 15 of each tax year for classification and exemption under this Act.

(b) Applications shall include:

(I) Proof of agricultural activity;

(II) Income documentation, if required; and

(III) Certification of primary residence status.

(c) County assessors shall review applications and may conduct audits or inspections to verify eligibility.

SECTION 8. ABSOLUTE RECAPTURE. (a) if property receiving benefits under this act is converted to non-agricultural use within twenty years of receiving such benefits, the owner shall be liable for all back-taxes saved under this act plus a preventative land-conversion surcharge of twenty-five percent of the sale price.

SECTION 9. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The department of revenue, in consultation with the department of agriculture, is authorized to promulgate rules necessary to implement and administer this Act.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the Act.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. Act subject to petition – effective date. This act takes effect on August 18, 2026, assuming the general assembly adjourns sine die on May 18, 2026; except that, if a veto petition is filed pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 29, 2026

CHAPTER 30

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 26-035

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gia Gomez, Lucia Weiss
also SENATOR(S) Bailey Guzman, Josh Quintana

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF MINOR CHILDREN THROUGH EMERGENCY MEDICAL INTERVENTION AUTHORITY AND THE REGULATION OF VACCINE EXEMPTIONS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ENSURING ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT AND SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

In the San Andreas Revised Statutes, ADD section 25-50-165 as follows:

[1] Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be referred to as the "Child Immunization Protection Act."

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The state has a compelling interest in protecting the life, health, and welfare of minor children;

(b) Certain diseases, specifically including rabies and bacterial meningitis, are almost universally fatal without timely medical intervention, yet are preventable through established medical treatment;

(c) Delays in administering post-exposure prophylaxis or other emergency care may result in irreversible harm or death;

(d) While parents and legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis retain fundamental rights concerning the upbringing of their children, such rights do not extend to decisions that place a child at substantial risk of serious harm, death, or permanent disability;

(e) Maintaining high community immunity through vaccination are necessary to protect public health and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases; and

(f) It is necessary to establish clear standards governing when the state may intervene to provide life-saving care and to ensure that vaccine exemptions are limited to legitimate medical necessity.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that, in the reasonable medical judgment of a licensed physician, physician assistant, licensed osteopathic physician or advanced practice nurse poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm without immediate intervention.

(b) "Post-exposure prophylaxis" means medically indicated treatment administered after exposure to a disease to prevent infection, including but not limited to rabies vaccination.

(c) “Medical exemption” means a certification by a licensed physician that a specific immunization is contraindicated for a child, or the child's household contacts due to a recognized medical condition.

(d) “Minor” means any individual under eighteen years of age.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY MEDICAL OVERRIDE AUTHORITY. (a) To the extent permitted by the state and federal constitutions and notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a licensed physician or authorized health care provider acting within their scope of practice may administer medically necessary treatment to a minor without parental or guardian consent when:

(b) The minor is determined to have an emergency medical condition; and

(c) Delay in treatment would significantly increase the risk of death or serious bodily harm.

(d) Treatment authorized under this section includes, but is not limited to:

(I) Administration of post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies or other life-threatening communicable diseases;

(II) Emergency vaccination necessary to prevent imminent harm; and

(III) Any other intervention deemed medically necessary under prevailing standards of care.

(e) When feasible, the provider shall make diligent and documented efforts to notify the parent or guardian; however, lack of consent shall not delay treatment.

(f) A health care provider acting in good faith, and without willful or wanton misconduct under this section shall be immune from civil and criminal liability.

(g) The state or a designated agency may seek an expedited court order affirming the necessity of the medical intervention, but such order shall not be required when immediate action is necessary.

(h) this section shall not apply to minors aged seventeen who expressly object to the treatment or vaccination, regardless of parental consent or medical necessity.

SECTION 5. LIMITATION ON VACCINE EXEMPTIONS. (a) A minor shall be required to receive all immunizations mandated by the Department of Public Health as a condition of school or licensed childcare facility attendance, unless a valid medical exemption is provided.

(b) Philosophical And Conscientious Exemptions. Non-medical exemptions, including religious, personal belief, philosophical, or conscientious exemptions, shall be automatically granted upon the submission of a signed statement by the parent or guardian.

(c) A medical exemption shall:

(I) be issued by a licensed physician who has treated the minor within the preceding twelve months;

(II) Specify the medical condition justifying the exemption;

(III) Be consistent with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health and recognized national medical authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(IV) Be subject to periodic review and renewal as determined by the department.

(d) Audit Protections. The department of public health is prohibited from auditing, reviewing, or revoking medical exemptions issued by a licensed independent medical professional, and the exclusive authority for suitability resides with the issuing physician.

(e) A minor with a valid medical exemption may be excluded from school or childcare settings during an outbreak of a communicable disease.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS. (a) The refusal of a parent or guardian to consent to treatment for an emergency medical condition as defined in this act may constitute medical neglect under state law where a medical professional certifies that the refusal creates an immediate, life-threatening danger to the child.

(b) Child protective services may take appropriate action, including temporary protective custody, when necessary to ensure access to life-saving care.

SECTION 7. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The Department of Public Health shall promulgate rules in accordance with the State Administrative Procedure Act

necessary to implement this act, including standards for medical exemptions and procedures for emergency intervention.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act.

SECTION 9. SAFETY CLAUSE. The General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and therefore shall take effect immediately after being signed by the Governor.

Approved: May 29, 2026